

Iraq, Jordan discuss education

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Higher Education Ratab Al Saud Sunday discussed with his Iraqi counterpart Hamman Abdul Khaliq scopes of cooperation in higher education and means of enhancing bilateral cooperation in the scientific and cultural fields in implementation of a cultural agreement signed between both countries. The Iraqi minister and an accompanying delegation early Sunday visited Amman University College of Applied Engineering and Princess Alia Community College and were briefed on their programmes, curricula and educational plans by their respective deans. Dr. Abdul Khaliq praised the two institutions' role in meeting the local market's needs for skilled and specialised cadres.

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U.S. 'will not wait' for U.N. okay if Iraq renews threat

Security Council bars troop movements; Iraq rejects U.N. move as face-saving for U.S.; Russia wants to end rift with U.S.

Combined agency dispatches

IF IRAQI troops threaten Kuwait again, the United States will not wait for the green light from the United Nations before striking, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Sunday.

"We feel we have all the necessary authority under the U.N. to take action against (Iraq). I think that next time we'll probably not wait. We will take action, strong action, against (Iraq)," Mr. Christopher said in an interview with NBC News.

Mr. Christopher's comments came on the heels of the U.N. Security Council vote late Saturday approving a resolution barring Baghdad from deploying elite Republican Guard units in southern Iraq and from reinforcing its military capacity on the Kuwait border.

The 15-member council unanimously adopted Resolution 949 after intense negotiations in which Russia threatened to veto the measure unless the United States agreed to include a reference to Moscow's efforts to win Iraqi recognition of Kuwaiti independence.

President Bill Clinton welcomed the resolution. "The Security Council has made clear that it will not permit Iraq to use its military to threaten its neighbours or U.N. operations in Iraq," Mr. Clinton said in a statement shortly after the vote.

Mr. Christopher said the council's action Saturday, coupled with existing U.N. resolutions, gives the U.S. administration the go-ahead to take action against Iraq.

"We feel we have adequate authority under existing resolutions and we feel (Iraq) has been put on notice by this new resolution: that (Iraq) should not, once again, make a movement

that's threatening to Kuwait."

The latest crisis with Iraq was triggered Oct. 7 when Washington charged that Baghdad had deployed 80,000 troops — including its formidable Republican Guard — near the Kuwaiti border, reviving fears that it was about to repeat its 1990 invasion of the oil-rich emirate.

Iraqi troops began pulling back last week, but President Clinton has continued the massive buildup of U.S. troops to the Gulf region projected to reach some 30,000 troops.

The United States also has 19 vessels in the Gulf and the Red Sea, including four warships and a submarine that can fire more than 200 Tomahawk cruise missiles at Baghdad.

Mr. Christopher said Iraq has taken action to haul its troops back, but the U.S.

administration is not calling it quits yet.

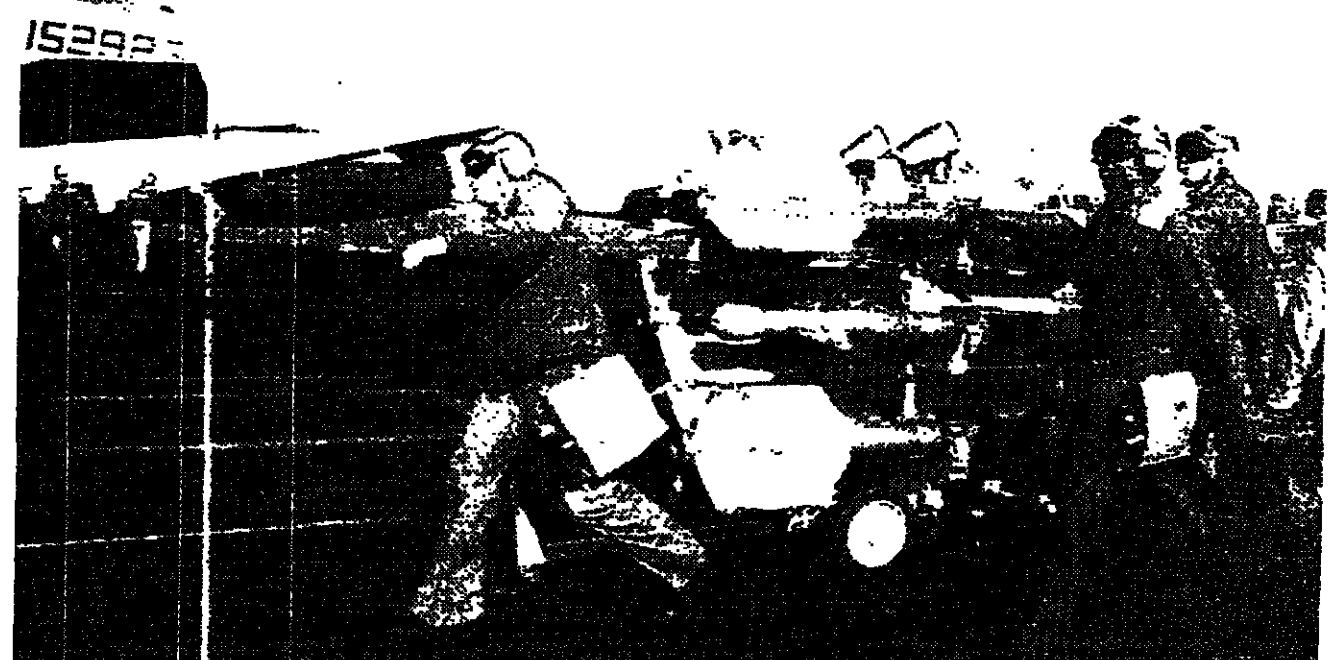
"We're not announcing that it's finished yet. Iraq does seem to be moving in the right direction," Mr. Christopher said.

However, the United States is still concerned that some elements of the Iraqi forces are not completely withdrawn. Mr. Christopher said there were still two brigades around Nasiriyah in southern Iraq.

Despite the crisis in the Gulf in the past 10 days, not a single Iraqi soldier has come anywhere near the Kuwaiti border, U.N. observers patrolling the frontier say.

Some reports last week, never confirmed, said the 80,000 Iraqi troops who threatened Kuwait had got to within 10 or 20 kilometres of the frontier.

But General Krishna Thapa, commander of the 1,000-



U.S. Navy flight-deck personnel pull a cart loaded with missiles aboard the USS George Washington off the Kuwaiti coast (AFP photo)

King, Rabin and Peres meet in Amman in accelerated moves

Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein met on Sunday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on progress in the Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations, which were said to have made major strides.

The summit was underway at Al Hashemiyeh Palace, international news agencies reported.

Their talks were to focus on the two thorniest issues in the Jordan-Israeli peace talks of drawing up a common border and sharing water resources, an Israeli official said in occupied Jerusalem.

Earlier a senior Jordanian official told AFP Jordan was ready to sign a peace treaty

with Israel in the next two months.

The official said peace "will not be signed without Israel withdrawing from occupied Jordanian territory and Jordan getting its share of water resources."

But he said "everything leads to believe that Jordan will be able to obtain satisfaction between now and December and if it does, sign a peace treaty with Israel before the end of the year."

The official said the Amman meeting allowed talks to move beyond their normal framework by "bypassing technical details and concentrating on the roots of the problems."

The official, who requested anonymity, said his optimism was based on progress made

during a surprise summit between King Hussein and Mr. Rabin in Amman last Wednesday.

After the meeting also attended by Mr. Peres, Mr. Rabin said it had marked a "big step towards peace."

"I hope that by the end of the year a peace agreement will be signed and I hope that it could be even sooner than that," Mr. Rabin said.

No official statement was available on the visit by press time.

Officials quoted by Reuters said the talks were attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and other top aides.

"Things are developing quickly in the direction of a peace treaty and political decisions by the leadership of

the two countries are needed," one Jordanian official told Reuters.

"The main gaps in the draft treaty both sides are working on deal with details relating to the core issues of the quantities of water Jordan is entitled to, details over the delineation of borders and related security measures."

Israel Radio said that Israel and Jordan were "on the brink" of reaching a treaty and that a declaration on having reached one could result of Sunday's meetings.

An official told the Associated Press that while talks with Jordan had reached a "final phase," it was uncertain whether all issues would be resolved on Sunday.

Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres arrived in Jordan by helicopter

Israeli troops in Palestinian

EBRON (R) — Israeli troops shot dead a 24-year-old Palestinian who allegedly refused an order to halt on Monday in the occupied West Bank, according to military sources. Palestinians said they had been looking for archaeological artifacts near Hebron when troops encountered him. The military sources said he apparently tried to flee and when he refused an order to stop, soldiers opened fire.

Finns say yes to EU

HELSINKI (AFP) — Finns voted Sunday to join the European Union (EU), with 77.4 per cent supporting membership and 22.6 per cent opposing it, according to results from the state computer centre after 80.3 per cent of all votes were counted.

Egypt, Syria and Gulf states to meet

CAIRO (R) — The Foreign Ministers of the eight Damascus Declaration states — Egypt, Syria and the six Gulf Arab countries — will meet in Cairo on Tuesday to discuss the tension between Iraq and Kuwait. Foreign Ministry sources said. It will be the first meeting of the states since Iraq started moving troops towards the Iraqi border in late September.

Business team arrives from Cairo

AMMAN (J.T.) — A large delegation from the American Chamber of Commerce in Cairo arrived in Amman on Sunday on a five-day trade mission to Jordan for talks and meetings with Jordanian government officials and members of the private sector business community in Jordan.

Vohlk arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Denmark's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Henrik Vohlk arrived in Amman on Sunday on a four-day official visit to Jordan during which he will meet Jordanian officials and businessmen to discuss bilateral relations. Possibilities of cooperation among Danish experts, consultants and industrial companies and their Jordanian and Palestinian counterparts will be discussed during the visit (see page 12).

Self-rule talks resume Tuesday...

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel will pick up the negotiations with the Palestinians in Cairo on Tuesday. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman announced Sunday.

Mr. Rabin suspended the talks on the spread of autonomy to the West Bank and Palestinian elections last Tuesday after the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, took a soldier hostage.

The announcement from spokesman Oded Ben Ami came after a cabinet meeting agreed to return to the negotiating table, but gave no date.

An official communiqué said: "The cabinet will continue to conduct negotiations

with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on the basis of the agreements signed until now."

"And at the same time will fight a war of annihilation against organised terrorists," it said.

Mr. Rabin had demanded the PLO "smash" Hamas before returning to negotiations, the radio reported.

But the official communiqué said the government expected PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and the PNA to "act with resolve to do everything in their power ... against those who carry out acts of terror and whose purpose is to sow murder and

destruction and to bring a halt to the peace process."

Mr. Rabin, who chaired Sunday's weekly cabinet session, has warned Mr. Arafat to choose between peace with Israel and peace with Hamas.

The spokesman said the closure of the Gaza Strip would be lifted on Monday.

The measure has prevented Gazans from entering Israel since last Tuesday when Hamas announced it had kidnapped 19-year-old Nachshon Waxman.

Hamas tried to swap the corporal for 200 Palestinian prisoners, but the army raided the fundamentalists' West Bank hideout on Friday.

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... Gazans stage violent protest

GAZA (Agencies) — Hundreds of Islamic students protested violently near a Jewish settlement in Palestinian-ruled Gaza on Sunday and Israeli troops withdrew from a checkpoint to avoid a confrontation.

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) increased security all over the strip in anticipation of fresh protests by Hamas supporters against the continued detention of hundreds of activists from the group.

Last week's kidnapping and killing of Israeli soldier Nachshon Waxman by Hamas has polarised Palestinian politics, creating a bitter

divide between the self-rule authority and Palestinian opposition groups led by Hamas.

The authority is still holding about 300 Hamas supporters it rounded up during the search for Waxman. An official on Saturday said most of them would be released soon but those with ties to Hamas' military wing Qassam would be held for more questioning.

Witnesses said students from the Islamic University, a Hamas stronghold, protested — violently when Palestinian police stopped 30 buses carrying them from the south of the Strip to Gaza City.

No reason was given for the police action, but on Saturday students from the university led a mass protest to Gaza central prison.

"We have orders to stop any demonstration in Gaza today," a senior police officer told AFP amid unconfirmed reports the authority tipped off the Israelis about where the hostage was hidden.

Main streets in the city were sealed off to traffic Sunday.

The students on Sunday threw stones at an Israeli military checkpoint on the main north-south road in the city.

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Kohl claims narrow election victory

BONN (Agencies) — A jubilant Chancellor Helmut Kohl claimed victory in Germany's general election on Sunday after computer projections gave his centre-right coalition a narrow lead over the combined opposition parties.

"We have won the second all-German election," he told party workers at the headquarters of his Christian Democratic (CDU) Party in Bonn.

"This is certainly a viable majority and we will continue the government coalition."

The CDU and its Bavarian sister party, The Christian Social Union (CSU), lost ground compared with their showing in the election soon after unification in 1990, while their Liberal Free Democrat (FDP) coalition partners suffered substantial losses.

But the coalition's combined result looked set to be around 49 per cent against around 47.4 per cent for the

opposition Social Democrats (SPD), radical Greens and the reformed Communist Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS).

Finance Minister Theo Waigel said the CDU/CSU had achieved its goals.

"The deciding point is that we have a majority and that we can govern," he said.

The result was particularly frustrating for SPD leader Rudolf Scharping, the fourth SPD challenger to be defeated by Mr. Kohl.

Mr. Scharping, 46, saw his party's share of the vote rise to around 37 per cent from 33.5 in 1990 while his would-be coalition partners, the Greens, were headed back into parliament with around 6.4 per cent, although this was well down on its 11 per cent in 1990.

Mr. Scharping implicitly admitted defeat, but stressed his party was now a real contender for power.

Visibly satisfied with the result Mr. Scharping said his

party had not made such strong gains since the mid-1960s and he warned that the centre-right government was now "a coalition of losers."

Mr. Scharping said the SPD would replace Mr. Kohl's ruling coalition "in 1998 or earlier," and that his party would be "a powerful force which can no longer be ignored in Germany."

The combined leftist vote fell tantalisingly short of vote to claim its full share of seats even if, as looked certain, this was below five per cent.

PDS parliamentary leader Gregor Gysi described the result, with his party likely to get around four per cent, as historic.

"Everyone tried to prevent us from entering the new parliament, and I believe we have come through against this, also against a significant part of the media," he said.

"This one can describe as historic."

Speakership race narrows down to Masri, Srour and controversy

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The contest for the speakership of the Lower House of Parliament was reduced to a two-horse race this week when all but one candidate withdrew their candidacy in favour of incumbent Taber Al Masri.

After a long period of what some deputies described as the indecisiveness of Mr. Masri on whether he wanted to run for a second term, the tables turned Saturday when it was announced that the former prime minister "responded to the wish of his colleagues" and decided to run for the speakership.

The announcement came after Islamic Action Front (IAF) candidate Abdullah Al Akaleh, independent Islamist candidate Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat and independent

candidate Abdul Karim Al Dughmi withdrew in favour of Mr. Masri.

Accordingly, the battle for the speakership will be contested when the 12th parliament convenes on Oct. 22 by Mr. Masri and his colleague in the 12-member Democratic National Coalition Sa'd Hayel Srour.

Parliamentary sources say both candidates could count on a considerable amount of support and it would be hard to predict the outcome of the elections before the 80 deputies cast their secret ballots when the House convenes.

Parliamentary sources told the Jordan Times that Mr. Masri had secured the support of 13 independent deputies and enough assurances that the 16-member IAF bloc would support his bid for reelection.

Dr. Tubeishat, a deputy



Taber Al Masri

speaker of the House, said Mr. Masri had been promised the support of over 30 deputies who issued a statement Saturday announcing his candidacy.

He said the decision of



Saad Hayel Al Srour

those deputies to support Mr. Masri stemmed from their belief that he can effectively lead the House in the coming era, especially that he demonstrated his ability to do so in his first term.

IAF spokesman Hamzeh Mansour told the Jordan Times the bloc decided to withdraw its candidate after it was clear that he could not win. Though he would not explicitly confirm that the IAF would vote in favour of Mr. Masri, Mr. Mansour said he believed the incumbent stood better chances of winning the elections.

"We will vote in favour of the candidate whom we deem to be better equipped to act in compliance with democracy and shoura," said Mr. Mansour, adding that the former Prime Minister decided to reverse his decision not to run for a second term when it became clear he could win the elections.

Not so, say supporters of Mr. Srour.

A deputy who requested anonymity said Mr. Masri, who went on the record last

month as saying he would not seek a second term, had wanted to run throughout this period but was first waiting to be promised the support of centrist deputies.

He said that Mr. Masri failed to do that Saturday when the National Bloc, led by Deputy Jamal Al Khreisha, informed him that it could not support him and his own democratic front sent him a similar message.

But, according to parliamentary sources, a 13-member group of independent deputies pushed for his candidacy late Saturday and convinced him to run when they succeeded in having Mr. Dughmi, Mr. Tubeishat and Dr. Akaleh withdraw in his favour.

Mr. Masri also failed to win the support of his own National Democratic Alliance, the majority of

whose members told him they were committed to their previously democratically reached decision to support Mr. Srour, sources within the coalition said.

The coalition voted last month in favour of the candidacy of Mr. Srour after Mr. Masri said he was not interested in running for a second term. The coalition then took a vote on selecting its candidate in which Mr. Masri took part in the voting.

The majority supported Mr. Srour against the other deputy who wanted to run, Ali Abul Ragheb.

So when Mr. Masri changed his mind, the coalition did not, insisting instead on going all the way in support of Mr. Srour, sources within the coalition said.

Mr. Srour told the Jordan Times that "nothing has

(Continued on page 7)

U.N. says it may have to quit Somalia under hostile fire

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has recommended ending the ill-starred billion-dollar-a-year U.N. operation in Somalia next March 31, but said the 15,000-strong force would have to be given naval and air reinforcements in case it has to pull out under fire.

"In the worst case scenario, UNOSOM (the U.N. operation in Somalia) forces would have to withdraw in face of hostile action by Somali factions and/or widespread banditry, which would prevent the use of commercial air and sea transport," he said in a report over the weekend to the Security Council.

"I have accordingly approached several member states who possess the naval and air assets required to reinforce UNOSOM during the critical withdrawal phase, whether or not such withdrawal is carried out under hostile conditions."

Dr. Ghali said a secure and orderly withdrawal would take between 60 and 120 days, depending on security conditions.

The reinforcements would have to include naval elements with fire support and sealift capabilities, as well as military aircraft.

Italy was prepared to provide five or six ships and 300 to 400 Marines, and additional contributions were expected.

Dr. Ghali did not say which other countries he had approached. But one source said the United States, which wants the U.N. operation to be wound up at the end of this year instead of next March, was one of them and was considering the request for ships and planes.

A large United States-led task force began arriving in Somalia in December 1992 to protect humanitarian operations in the famine-stricken country and tried to restore some semblance of order amid widespread chaos and factional fighting.

The United States handed over to the United Nations in May 1993 after suffering casualties in clashes with Somali gunmen, but the last American troops did not leave until March this year.

Dr. Ghali conceded the U.N. presence "has had limited impact on the peace process and limited impact on security in the face of continuing interclan fighting and banditry."

Warning against any attempt by individual U.N. national contingents to act

Clash in Somaliland

A Somali militia commander was killed and four government soldiers were wounded when troops tried to capture the rebel-held airport at Hargeisa, capital of the self-proclaimed Somaliland republic, U.N. sources said in Mogadishu on Sunday.

The sources said Somaliland President Mohammad Egal had confirmed the clash along the road linking Hargeisa with the port of Berbera. They quoted him as saying he had ordered his troops to capture the airport from the rebels, who have held it for the past year.

The Somaliland republic occupied the northern half of Somalia — the area which was a British protectorate before independence. It has broken away from the warring factions in the south, a former Italian colony, and says its decision is irreversible.

Somali warlord Ali Mahdi Mohammad said on Saturday he would refuse to attend a peace conference called by his main rival, Mohammad Farah Aidede.

Mr. Mahdi, whose 1991 civil war with General Aidede ruined Somalia, prompting foreign intervention to protect famine relief operations and the U.N. mission to try to reestablish civil government, said the conference announced on Friday would lead the country back to chaos.

Prince Abdullah visits CDD

HIS ROYAL Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein on Sunday visited the Civil Defence Department (CDD) and met with its director general, Afif Ghoul, and his senior assistants.

The Prince was briefed on the general services in the fields of rescue, first aid and fire fighting offered by the CDD to the public.

Prince Abdullah inspected the CDD operations room and was briefed on its responses to emergency calls.

He also inspected CDD equipment and fire engines.



U.N. inspectors report cooperation from Baghdad

BAHRAIN (AP) — A 10-member team of U.N. biological weapons inspectors newly returned from Baghdad said Saturday that despite the tension in the Gulf the Iraqis were cooperating well with them.

The team leader, Kenneth G. Johnson of Canada, told reporters: "We encountered high-level support and cooperation."

"There was a considerable effort to make things move as smoothly as possible and we encountered no problems, no difficulties, no animosities," he said. "It was a smooth mission."

Mr. Johnson, a member of Ottawa's Defence Industrial Research Programme, spoke to reporters after the team comprising U.S., Russian, British, Australian and Swedish experts arrived overnight from the Iraqi capital.

They had been in Iraq since Sept. 30 and visited the south to complete an inventory of universities, research institutes and industrial facilities that Baghdad could use to resume its clandestine biological weapons programme.

Mr. Johnson, who was in Baghdad on a similar mission last April, said the military situation along the Kuwaiti

border not only had no impact on their mission, but they had been hard put to detect that a crisis had developed.

"We were aware of activities happening, but they had no impact on what we were doing," he said.

Iraqi officials did not mention the crisis, and ordinary people were just "uniformly polite."

"I suppose the only significant change... was that alcoholic beverages were no longer available in the restaurants," Mr. Johnson said.

Bahrain is regional headquarters for the U.N. arms inspectors. Nearly 100 teams have gone into Iraq since the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire to dismantle Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and establish a long-term monitoring system to ensure it does not revive the clandestine efforts.

U.N. personnel were frequently harassed by the Iraqis in the past. But in recent months they have reported growing cooperation as Baghdad complied with U.N. resolutions in an effort to have paralyzing U.N. trade sanctions lifted.

The United States and Britain claim Baghdad still has not complied fully, alleging it has hidden missiles and other

hardware and is building underground bunkers to revive its military programmes.

Road Opsahl, regional chief of the U.N. Special Commission charged with dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, said that a seven-member team from the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency is currently in Iraq.

Its mission is to conduct a routine six-monthly sampling of air, water and soil to check for traces of secret nuclear weapons activity.

The 10-day-old standoff between Iraqi and U.S.-led allied forces in the Gulf has not meant any change in the commission's operations, Opsahl said.

The inspectors have established a monitoring system to keep Iraq's military facilities and industrial complexes under constant surveillance.

A monitoring centre in Baghdad is linked some 50 to 100 spy cameras and sensor systems as part of the unprecedented surveillance operation.

Some 60 U.N. personnel led by retired Admiral Goeran Wallen of Sweden are manning the centre, which commission Chairman Rolf Ekens has declared "provisionally operational."

Algerian journalist shot dead

ALGIERS (AFP) — An Algerian radio journalist was shot dead in a southern Algiers suburb early Sunday, in the latest of a series of attacks targeting the media, a statement from the security services said.

Tayeb Bouterfis, 41, who worked for Arab service of the Chaine 4 foreign-language news station, was gunned down as he was getting into his car near his home in the suburb of Baraki.

Baraki is a stronghold of the Islamic fundamentalists who are waging war against the military-backed government and lies within the city's so-called "triangle of fear," an area of poor districts in the south of the city.

Last Monday, six police and six civilians were killed in an attack later claimed as the work of Islamic Salvation Army, the armed wing of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

Dozens of journalists, teachers, doctors and other intellectuals have been killed in attacks mainly claimed by armed Muslim fundamentalist guerrillas.

The violence, which has taken at least 10,000 lives according to the military-backed secular regime, began when the army intervened in January 1992 to cancel the second round of general elections the FIS was poised to win.

The FIS was subsequently outlawed.

Bouterfis was the 19th journalist to be killed in Algeria since May 1993, according to figures compiled by AFP.

A colleague at Chaine 4 said Sunday he was "very shocked" by the news of the killing.

Last month, the government released the top leaders of the FIS, convicted in 1992 of state security offences and jailed for 12 years, in a bid to promote dialogue and end the bloody political standoff.

The most radical of the extremist movements, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), last year warned it would target foreigners it saw as collaborating with the government.

Darawshe ends visit, says it achieved gains

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation of Arab Israelis led by Knesset Member Abdul Wahab Darawshe ended a several-day visit to Jordan on Sunday and declared their full backing for Jordan's steps towards peace with Israel.

Addressing a press conference in Amman shortly before his departure for home Mr. Darawshe, who heads the Arab Democratic Party in Israel, said that peace with Israel would open the door for regional cooperation and safeguard the interests of all parties.

"There is urgent need for peace to be achieved between Israel and all its neighbours based on full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands," Mr. Darawshe stressed.

He reiterated his party's demand for an independent Palestinian state in Palestinian soil and said that this was identical to Jordan's views.

Mr. Darawshe said that in his talks with Jordanian government leaders he reviewed the peace process, stressing that Jordan was intent on helping the Palestinians regain their usurped rights.

Jordan has no ambitions whatsoever in Palestine and was keen on enabling the Palestinian people regain independence and freedom," Mr. Darawshe added.

Mr. Darawshe said he believed his visit to Jordan achieved gains for the Israeli



Abdul Wahab Darawshe

Arabs, noting that upon directives by His Majesty King Hussein the government of Jordan plans to offer Israeli Arab students seats at Jordanian state universities and allow Israeli Arabs to visit their kins in the Kingdom.

Mr. Darawshe, who was seen off by Minister of State Mohammad Thweib and other officials voiced deep appreciation of King Hussein's continued help for the Palestinian people, stressing that exchange of visits between the Palestinians and Jordanians would contribute to further enhancing their historic relations.

Saudi Arabia still holds 27 dissidents

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia said on Sunday it was holding 27 people it believed to be ring-leaders of militant Islamic agitation after a crackdown on dissent in the conservative kingdom last September.

An Interior Ministry statement, carried by the official Saudi Press Agency, said 130 other people were released after they admitted their offences, and pledged not to repeat them.

Saudi Arabia said in September it had arrested 110 people in connection with attempts to sow dissent and chaos.

"Investigation showed links with other people... which prompted their arrest for investigation... the number of detainees reached 157," it said.

"The investigation with those who are less responsible, numbering 130, ended and they confessed to the mistakes they made and their actions against the security of the state... they regretted that and pledged not to repeat what they did and they were released," it said.

"The remainder, numbering 27, some of whom played major harmful roles, are still under investigation," it added.

Sunday's statement said the 130 released people were pardoned by King Fahd.

The United States said in September it was monitoring the situation in Saudi Arabia and had "serious concerns" over human rights there.

The detainees were believed to be followers of controversial Muslim preacher Sheikh Salman Al Auda, who advocates stricter implementation of Islamic law in Saudi Arabia, already one of the world's most puritanical Muslim states.

Diplomats in the region said Washington's comments angered Saudi Arabia but the two countries moved quickly

to repair the breach and restore the strong ties between them.

They said Western countries with strong economic interests in Saudi Arabia see its traditional rulers as a bulwark against militancy such as that spawned by Iran's Islamic revolution.

The fundamentalists oppose Western alliance and any moves towards liberalisation in the kingdom.

An Islamic fundamentalist Saudi opposition group, based in London, says Sheikh Auda's arrest had triggered demonstrations in at least two Saudi cities, the capital Riyadh and Buraida to the northwest, known as a hotbed of militancy in the kingdom.

It claimed that over 1,000 people were arrested, but the diplomats said the figure was highly exaggerated.

The Saudi statement did not say if Sheikh Auda was among those released.

It said the Interior Ministry hoped that the release of the 130 people "and their pardon by King Fahd would be a chance for them to assert what they pledged and signed in confessing to their mistakes, regretting what they did and pledging to avoid (repeating it)."

It vowed to take "deterrent measures" against anybody who threatens the kingdom's security.

The opposition group, the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) in Saudi Arabia, said on Oct. 5 that authorities had carried out a new round of arrests in Saudi Arabia, including professors and poets.

The CDLR was set up in 1993 by ultra-conservative Saudis and was declared illegal by Saudi religious leaders who said Islamic laws applied in the kingdom were the best protector of human rights.

Children suffer in sanctions-hit Iraqi hospitals

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi children, lying in comas or shivering in pain on grubby hospital beds, are the innocent victims of Baghdad's confrontation with the West.

U.N. sanctions have brought severe shortages of medicines. Children are suffering and dying from illnesses which could easily be treated if drugs were available, doctors say.

Pneumonia and diarrhoea are the worst killers and malnutrition is on the rise.

Mortality rates have risen threefold in recent months at the Saddam Central Teaching Hospital for children, Iraq's main paediatric hospital, said its director, Dr. Qassim Ismail. Last month 85 children died.

"We have shortages of everything — plaster, syringes,

medical equipment, insulin. And this is the best supplied hospital in the country. You can imagine the suffering elsewhere, especially outside Baghdad," he said.

During a tour of the wards, Dr. Othman Al Rawi tells a reporter: "A nine-year-old boy died of meningitis two days ago in this bed. We did not have the right medicine."

In the next bed 15-month-old Taha Salim lies in a coma on a dirty quilt. She is suffering from gastro-enteritis, diarrhoea and fevers which have brought on frequent convulsions. She has been in a coma for days.

Her 23-year-old mother Nadia Abbas wiped her child's brow with a flannel. "I feel my baby is leaving me. I feel helpless," she said.

In another ward five-year-

old Haidar Hamas sits on his bed playing with plastic farm animals. He suffers from tuberculosis.

His father was killed in Gulf war — the conflict which brought on the sanctions. His mother Amina gets a pension of 500 dinars (about \$1) a month.

"Before sanctions medicine was easy to get free. This bottle of pills cost 150 dinars. It lasts one week," she said.

The pills are not those Haidar really needs. He often coughs up blood.

Health care was free and Iraq was proud of its welfare system before the war and sanctions. Now relatives often have to find their own medicine and bring food to their sick children.

A U.N. aid official supported the doctors' assertions

of the crisis afflicting their health system.

Under the sanctions, imposed by the United Nations following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, trade in medicine and food are not banned. But with no oil revenue, the government is running out of money to import them and the cost for such supplies are beyond the means of the average Iraqi family.

President Saddam Hussein has demanded an easing of the sanctions, pointing to the suffering of the people, but he has yet to comply with the Gulf war ceasefire terms.

The list of the hospital's woes goes on. About 30 Cuban and Vietnamese nurses have gone home during or since the war. Dr. Ismail said, Iraqi staff are

leaving for the growing private sector, which ministers to those members of the elite who can afford better treatment.

The hospital can no longer afford to give free milk and baby formula to the children — one can of milk costs 400 dinars on the open market.

Bed linen is changed every three days but even the soap to wash it properly is in short supply. Three of the 11 wards have been closed and incubators and other equipment have broken down.

"Those who are putting on sanctions have no human principles at all. What kind of cruelty do they have," said Dr. Ismail, who did postgraduate studies at the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital in London.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:00	Alice Au Pays Des Merveilles
17:30	Un Pour Tous
18:00	Les Six Compagnons
18:30	News in French
18:45	Magazine Sportif
19:00	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Cosch
21:10	Columbus
22:00	News in English
22:30	Love and Hate
PRAYER TIMES	
04:19	Fajr
05:36	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:21	Dhuhr
14:36	Asr
17:07	Maghreb
18:26	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweith, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824528	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195	
The Lutheran Day School Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Temperatures will continue to drop gradually as skies will be cloudy to partly cloudy. There will be a chance of scattered showers with winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min/Max, temp.	16 / 22
Amman	22 / 32
Aqaba	14 / 25
Deserts	14 / 25
Jordan Valley	22 / 30

Yesterday's high temperatures:	
Amman 23, Aqaba 32	Humidity readings: Amman 51 per cent, Aqaba 43 per cent.
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Mukhlis Mazhar	820425
Dr. Khalil Jhali	740740
Dr. Ramzi Mzawi	894788
Dr. Khalil Al-Tusiq	787253
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	776336
Al Asmaa pharmacy	637055
Nairookh pharmacy	62672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
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Queen returns from U.S. working visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday returned to Jordan from a working visit to the United States, where as chair of the Advisory Board of the Centre for the Study of the Global South (CSGS) in Washington D.C. she attended a conference to review the Cairo Conference on Population and Development, said a Royal Court statement.

At the meeting, the Queen headed a panel discussion on "Empowerment of Women: Problems and Prospects."

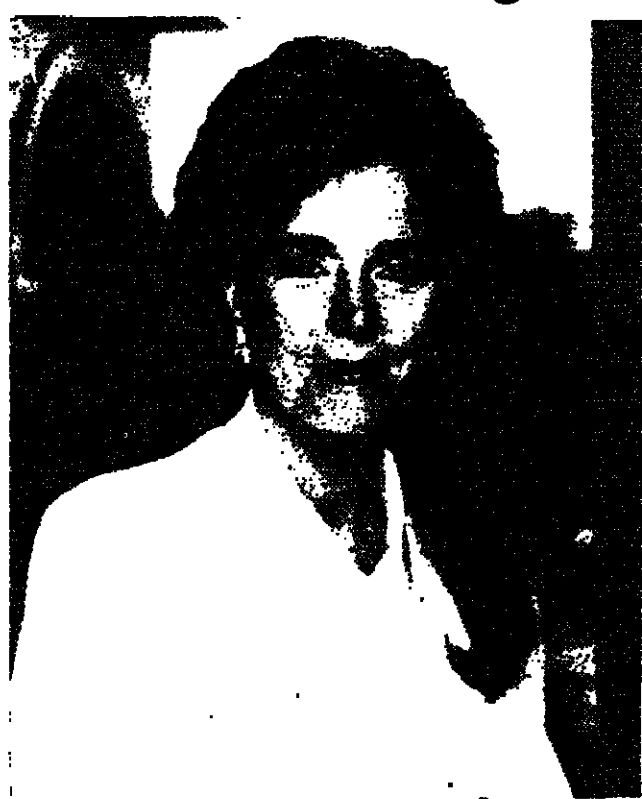
Queen Noor later delivered the keynote address at a second conference organised by the C.S.G.S., in preparation for the World Summit on Social Development (WSSD), to be held in Copenhagen in March 1995.

The conferences brought together professors, United Nations representatives, politicians and social and political activists to participate in academic debates, exchange ideas and formulate tangible recommendations for the Copenhagen summit, according to the statement.

The social summit, said the statement, will focus on three core issues: alleviation and reduction of poverty by securing basic rights to shelter, food, education, health care, security and survival; expansion of productive employment, through sustainable economic development, fair employment conditions, long-term employment, unemployment programmes for young people and other specific population groups; and enhancement of social integration, particularly of the more marginalised and disadvantaged groups and the prevention of discrimination.

The participants stressed the need to integrate the findings and recommendations of previous international conferences into a plan of action. In her keynote address, the Queen said, "we find ourselves at a critical juncture where the needs of people must be put at the centre of development. The causes and effects of social and economic distress can no longer be neatly relegated to any one part of the world. We have to work together for the common good and our mutual welfare or we will allow disparities and polarisation, resentment and fears to degenerate into a dispiriting and destructive global struggle."

Queen Noor emphasised the importance of the role of women in sustainable development saying, "the status and role of women will continue to assume a more and more central importance in fields such as community development, employment, human rights and democratisation. Experiences in a variety of cultures repeatedly validate a significant fact: the most effective means of long-term development comprises educating young girls, giving women greater choices and increasing their participation



in the community at large." The conference urged respect for the diversity of cultures and values at the social summit deliberations. This theme was emphasised in Queen Noor's address, when she said, "Progressive social development is not defined by any one single culture, whether it be Western, Islamic, Asian or African. The guiding rule is to develop and grow as distinct societies with our own traditions and within our own systems."

The Queen summarised the message that should emerge from the preparatory meetings to the Copenhagen summit saying, "social development in the end is not just about improving quality of life. It is about recalling that the human family's security is at stake. It is about recognising that diversity has merit and that tolerance and cooperation will have to be the overriding principles leading us to the summit."

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Lightning kills schoolboy in Jweideh 2 other children survive, in fair condition

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seven-year-old boy died and two other children Sunday were injured when they were struck by lightning in Jweideh town about 10 kilometres south of Amman.

A statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that Sanad Saqer, 7, died instantly from electrocution while walking home from school with two other youngsters, Nasrin Khaled, 6, and Mahmoud Ahmad, 7, who also were struck by the lightning and suffered burns.

The incident occurred at the ministries of finance and agriculture employee housing estate at Jweideh during a torrential thunderstorm.

The two injured children were being treated at Al Bashir Hospital in Amman where they were visited by Education Minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh and other officials.

The doctor on duty Ali Shawabkeh, who supervised the treatment, said that the children sustained burns to different parts of their bodies and were listed in fair condition.

Rains flood farms

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation Sunday reported that unexpected heavy rains which fell in the Jordan Valley Region Saturday and Sunday resulted in flooding of certain farmlands.

The ministry said the flood waters carried rocks and soil to the King Abdullah Canal which feeds farm irrigation systems, causing the water to become muddy and forcing the water authority in the region to stop pumping water until the water quality improved.

The statement urged local farmers to economise on the consumption of water.

Meanwhile, the Department of Meteorology said Sunday that it will be cloudy or partly cloudy today with scattered showers, especially in the northern and central regions of the country.

A department spokesman said that winds will be north-westerly moderate, and temperatures will not rise above 23°C and will drop to 14°C night.



Seven-year-old Mahmoud Ahmad Sunday is struck by lightning, while walking home from school in Jweideh town (Petra photo)

Premier visits northern governorates; receives petitions from parliamentarians

AJLOUN (Petra) — Three parliamentarians from Ajloun Governorate Sunday presented Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali with requests for improving social and economic conditions in their region.

Speaking during a visit by Dr. Majali to Ajloun, where he attended part of the Executive Council's meetings, Farah Rabadi, Ahmad Qudah and Deifallah Al Momani said that the governorate was in urgent need of agricultural roads, better health and educational services and further government attention to improving water distribution and the tourism sector as it relates to the governorate's attractions.

The prime minister also listened to several suggestions presented by directors of local departments, and promised that government would examine the requests and take the necessary action wherever possible.

Speaking in the presence of

Interior Minister Salameh Hamad, Dr. Majali reaffirmed the government's policy to decentralise and urged local officials to take measures to facilitate government office procedures and cut down on routine.

At the meeting, which was held at the Ajloun Community College, Governor Khaled Khreisha outlined the general situation in the governorate pointing in particular to plans for improving tourist facilities there.

Dr. Majali later visited Jerash Governorate and attended the weekly meeting of the local Executive Council which discussed the governorate's budget and services as well as voluntary work by school students during the holidays and the status of local youth clubs.

Two parliament members from Jerash area, Mifteh Rubeini and Saleiman Al Saad, presented requests for the improvement of social services in their governorate.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday attends a meeting of the Ajloun Governorate Executive Council (Petra photo)



REVIEWING PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE: Minister of State Mohammad Thwib. Sunday receives a U.S. delegation representing Pax World Service Friendship who are here on a visit to discuss progress in the Middle East peace talks. Mr. Thwib briefed the delegation

on the services offered by the government to the Palestine refugees living in Jordan. The delegation whose visit was at the invitation of the Middle East Council of Churches, Sunday also met with Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi and House Speaker Taher Masri (Petra photo)

Japanese business leaders arrive

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Japanese delegation of businesspersons Sunday arrived in Amman on one leg of a tour of the region which includes Egypt, the West Bank and Gaza Strip to familiarise themselves with the recent developments in the Middle East peace process, according to a statement by the Embassy of Japan here.

The group is also looking into the possibility of cooperation on commercial bases in light of the realisation of a lasting peace in the region, the statement said.

This 12-member team,

headed by Susumu Tempokin, chairman of Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd., was sent by the committee on Middle East-Japan relations of Keizai Doyukai (the Japan Association of Corporate Executives), which is one of the four major economic organisations in Japan, according to the statement.

Keizai Doyukai membership, said the statement, consists of approximately 1,500 executives representing about 900 corporations. It said all the members share the belief that corporate managers should play a leading role in a large variety of

economic and social issues. The statement added that Keizai Doyukai is deeply concerned with the problems facing the world today and strives to make a Japanese contribution towards their solution.

The formation of such a mission to Jordan is the first of its kind after the Gulf crisis of 1990-1991, said the statement. The group is expected to meet ministers, senior officials, members of the Jordan Businessmen's Association and others today, then proceed to the West Bank on Tuesday.

WHAT'S GOING ON

SPANISH CULTURAL WEEK

* "Vicente Amigo" — Modern Flamenco Jazz Concert with dinner preceding the show at the Forte Grand Hotel Amman at 8:30 p.m. (all proceeds to go to benefit Noor Al Hussein Foundation).

FILM

* French film entitled "La Regle Du Jeu" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Exhibition entitled "Spanish Modern Engraving and Multiple Sculpture" at the Jordan National Gallery, Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 630128).
- * The First Computer Art Exhibition in the Arab World at Ain Art Gallery, Wadi Saqra Street (Tel. 644451).
- * Exhibition by several Iraqi artists at Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art, Wadi Tal Street (Tel. 695291).
- * Exhibition of abstract art by Maha Sa'ad Mubaisen at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Ceramics exhibition by Iraqi artist Salam Nouri at Alia Art Gallery (Tel. 639350).
- * Exhibition of applied art (flowers, painting on clothes, mirrors and pottery) by Fathiya Al Asi at the University of Jordan.
- * Exhibition of abstract art by Rafi' Nasiri at the French Cultural Centre.
- * Exhibition of abstract art by Ali Al Mi'mar at the Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utheina (Tel. 826932).
- * Exhibition of watercolours by Vladimir Tamari at Darat Al Fumm, Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 643251/2).

Minister urges water conservation in drive to increase food production

AMMAN (J.T.) — Agriculture Minister Mansoor Ben Tarif Sunday urged citizens to try to save water because it is becoming an increasingly precious resource, vital, among other things, to food production.

In an address marking World Food Day Sunday, the minister said that because the entire world faces water problems, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) this year is observing World Food Day under the theme of "Water for Life."

Mr. Ben Tarif said that over the years the increase in population and the improved living standards of the country have required more water consumption and thus measures to provide that water via the construction of dams and the exploration of underground water sources.

He said the Kingdom is considered one of the dry and semi-desert regions of the world relying basically on rainfall as its major water source. He added that between 8,500 to 12,000 million

cubic metres of rainwater fall on Jordanian territory annually.

Still, the minister noted that most rain water is lost either through evaporation, seepage deep into the ground, leaving little for irrigation and other purposes.

According to Ministry of Agriculture statistics, more than 90 per cent of the total area of Jordan receives annual rainfall of less than 300 millimetres; and experts believe that next year Jordan will face a water deficit of 631 million cubic metres.

The minister said that at least 73 per cent of the water resources in the country are consumed by the agricultural sector leaving 23 per cent for drinking and domestic use and four per cent for industry.

In view of the situation, said the minister, the government has insisted on regaining its lost right to the water of the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers which he said can contribute to the country's

efforts to boost food production.

Mr. Ben Tarif outlined several programmes for cultivation of fruit trees, irrigation schemes and soil protection.

The minister spoke two days after his return from a non-aligned ministerial meeting held in Indonesia where delegates dedicated their discussions to the topic of increasing food production.

He said that the delegates, who reviewed ways to boost food production in their own countries, pledged to work closely with FAO and other organisations.

Referring to food production, he said that the Middle Eastern countries including Jordan have increased their food imports from eight million tonnes 30 years ago to 44 million this year.

The minister said statistics and forecasts to the conference revealed that these countries alone would increase their food imports to 78 million tonnes annually by the year 2010.

THE INDIAN SUB CONTINENT

منا من السفر

GULF AIR STYLE

Gulf Air flies nonstop from Amman to the Gulf with a host of convenient onward connections to Bombay, Delhi, Trivandrum, Madras, Colombo, Dhaka and Karachi. Whichever class you travel, you'll fly in comfort and style, enjoying our traditional hospitality. Come fly with us and discover the international smile of the Gulf.



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Rebel Chechen forces pull out after entering capital

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Pro-Moscow opposition troops trying to oust Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev moved into the centre of Grozny the capital of Russia's breakaway Caucasian republic overnight then withdrew without fighting, opposition troops were ordered to withdraw to their base outside the capital at about 03:00 a.m. (00:00 GMT), according to these sources.

In a statement to AFP Russian Khasbulatov, the former president of the Russian Supreme Soviet and a leader of the Chechen Unified Military Command "a criminal error bordering on treason."

The various leaders of the opposition in Chechnya pooled their forces last month in a unified military command headed by warlord Bisan Gantamirov to secure the overthrow of Mr. Dudayev.

Their forces launched a major offensive against Grozny around 15:00 GMT Saturday, advancing to within six kilometres (3.5 miles) of the presidential palace.

An AFP correspondent on the spot said they were backed by several helicopters firing rockets. There were a number of casualties in the operation but no exact figure has been given.

After a relatively quiet night opposition forces withdrew, with their military leaders saying they wanted "to avoid a blood-bath and to provide a last chance for a reasonable solution."

Sources at Mr. Dudayev's headquarters confirmed the withdrawal, claiming that the opposition had collapsed. In the early hours of Sunday, Mr. Dudayev had appeared briefly on Chechen Television to appeal to the population to stay calm, ITAR-TASS agency reported. It gave no details of the content of his address.

Some of his supporters demonstrated outside the presidential palace during the night, ITAR-TASS said, without giving any number.

Mr. Khasbulatov claimed that "the opposition was losing its prestige, which could even be reduced to zero" as a consequence of the decision to pull back.

He linked the decision with what he described as the desire of certain political forces in Russia to maintain a permanent state of confrontation in Chechnya but gave no further details.

On Saturday evening Mr. Khasbulatov had appealed for "the rapid opening of negotiations on a transfer of power" to the opposition to avoid excessive loss of life.

The various opposition movements have been seeking since September to overthrow Mr. Dudayev by military means, with the implicit support of Russia which has never recognised the independence declared by the president of the oil-rich Muslim republic at the end of 1991.

Mr. Dudayev's forces accused Russia of attacking the capital and appealed for all

able-bodied Chechens to take up arms to defend the republic's independence.

Both sides in the power struggle in Chechnya have often made exaggerated statements of their military successes and their claims could not be checked independently.

The Provisional Council said its troops moved into Grozny at around four p.m. local time (1300 GMT) Saturday and met little resistance.

But Colonel Musa Yusupov, Mr. Dudayev's military commander, told Interfax News Agency later that Mr. Dudayev was still in control and forces loyal to him had blocked the offensive.

He said Russian helicopters were supporting the opposition forces and had fired about 20 missiles, causing an unknown number of civilian casualties.

Col. Yusupov said Mr. Dudayev's forces blocked a 350-strong group of opposition fighters which tried to enter Grozny and surrounded it on the outskirts. They also foiled an airborne landing.

Mr. Dudayev was directing the defence of the capital from his office in the presidential palace, Col. Yusupov told Interfax, describing the situation in the city as under control.

He accused Russian regular forces and Interior Ministry troops of taking part in the opposition offensive. Interfax said Russia's North Caucasus military district denied it.

TASS said Mr. Dudayev's deputy, Vice-President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, appeared on television to say Russian troops were attacking the capital and to appeal for armed support.

"Everyone who considers himself a Chechen and a man must take up arms," he said.

Movlen Salomov, an aide to Mr. Dudayev, told Radio Russia he believed the attack on Grozny would be beaten off but fighting was taking place on three or four fronts.

Umar Arturkhanov, chairman of the Provisional Council, told the Moscow newspaper Izvestia earlier that his troops were ready to move against Mr. Dudayev.

"Our main problem is not how to enter Grozny and secure it — we can do that in a few hours. The main task is to carry out this operation flawlessly without large casualties not only among the civilian population but among the young men deceived by Dudayev," he said.

Mr. Arturkhanov, condemned by Mr. Dudayev as a puppet of Moscow, predicted that Mr. Dudayev would definitely be removed by the end of the year but did not say explicitly that an offensive was imminent.

Russia, while supporting the provisional council, has sworn not to use force itself. An initial attempt to use Russian troops to oust Mr. Dudayev, a former Soviet Air Force general, in November 1991 ended in a humiliating climbdown by Moscow.



WHAT A FRUITCAKE: A Karel Van Miert, samples a piece of what has 150 square metre fruitcake, made with fresh been dubbed as the world's biggest fruit-cake. fruit by CERIA/COOVI culinary students, is this part of the European Cancer Week, presented at Heysel Palace during the food with an eye on "Nutrition vs Cancer" (AFP fair Saturday. Belgian EU Commissioner photo)

British parties prepare for battle

LONDON (R) — British lawmakers return to parliament Monday after a summer break which has transformed the political scene and given the opposition Labour Party hope of breaking the Conservative grip on power.

The House of Commons resumes sittings with opinion polls showing the Labour Party 25 points ahead of the ruling Conservatives, in power since 1979.

Tony Blair, who was elected to the Labour leadership in July, has moved fast to shed socialist dogma which he believes has caused Labour to lose the last four general elections.

On Friday, Prime Minister John Major made clear to his party's annual conference that he will not respond by leading it to the right as some activists have urged.

Instead, he will hope economic growth and low inflation will produce a "feel good" atmosphere before a general election due by mid-1997, and that he can paint Labour plans for constitutional reform as likely to lead to the break-up of Britain.

"The Tories must be

counted as down, far down — but not yet out," the Financial Times newspaper commented Saturday.

At his party conference last week, Mr. Major tried to put the seal on the rightward shift by announcing he will propose a new statement of the party's philosophy to replace a passage in its constitution which commits it to common ownership.

But on Friday Mr. Major, addressing his troops in the seaside town of Bournemouth, said he would not be panicked into further radical policies.

"Change for the sake of change should never appeal to any Conservative. In a world of bewildering change, this party must stand for continuity and stability," he said.

Political observers said Saturday that with the two parties closer together on issues such as taxes, health and education, the constitutional future of Britain was set to emerge as a key battleground in politics.

Labour is committed to setting up separate parliaments in Scotland and Wales. They believe this will head

off pressure for independence in the two nations.

But the Conservatives argue the move will prove costly, increase bureaucracy and increase the risk of the two countries leaving the United Kingdom.

"The issue of nation will matter more during the next stage of political argument than it has since the '70s," columnist Andrew Marr wrote in Saturday's Independent newspaper.

But the Conservative face constitutional problems of their own with the 1996 inter-governmental conference of the European Union looming ahead.

Mr. Major knows he will face pressure for a further integration of the 12-nation grouping which would be anathema to large sections of his party.

His speech Friday barely mentioned the EU, despite a conference fringe speech earlier in the week from former Chancellor or the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Norman Lamont in which he said Britain might have to consider leaving the EU.

U.S. seeks closer military ties with China

BEIJING (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry arrived in China Sunday in a cautious new push to improve military cooperation but said he would raise contentious issues like human rights and Beijing's nuclear tests.

His visit is the first by a defence secretary since 1989, when military ties were frozen after the People's Liberation Army (PLA) crushed pro-democracy demonstrations with heavy loss of life.

"China is one of the most important countries in the world, both from an economic and a military point of view. I think it is very important for the United States to have a very good dialogue with the Chinese government," he told reporters travelling with him.

Before going on to the Philippines and South Korea later this week, he will hold talks with Premier Li Peng, Communist Party chief and President Jiang Zemin, Defence Minister Chi Haotian and top PLA officers.

"To all of them I will stress that the military relationship is bounded by the political context, which includes human rights, and that security problems caused by proliferation damage the mutual security interests and bilateral relationships," he said.

The secretary is the latest in a series of U.S. officials who have visited China this year since President Bill Clinton ended the linkage between trade benefits and human rights and renewed China's most favoured nation (MFN) trading status in May.

"I believe that open and frank discussion on these issues will be of benefit to both sides," said Mr. Perry.

"I don't have specific goals or achievements that I want to make in each of these areas. I just want to move the understanding and the dialogue along in each of those areas."

The United States has in the past accused the Chinese of selling missile technology to Pakistan and other countries.

But Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced this month that the United States would lift technology trade sanctions imposed on China. In exchange China agreed not to export ground-to-ground missiles capable of sending a 1,000-pound (450-kg) payload 186 miles (298 km).

Accompanying Mr. Perry are U.S. Senators Sam Nunn

Kim Jong-Il reappears at father's memorial service

TOKYO (R) — Reclusive North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il appeared in public Sunday for the first time since July 20 to attend a memorial service for his late father, President Kim Il-Sung.

State television footage beamed to Tokyo showed Mr. Kim, 52, attending a mass rally in a huge square outside the Pyongyang Assembly Hall where the president's state funeral was held three months ago.

Standing at the centre of a rostrum flanked by Senior Vice-President and Defence Minister O Jin-U and Premier Kang Song-San, Mr. Kim seemed in much better health than he did on his last appearance, at funeral rites for his father, the Stalinist "great leader" who died of a

heart attack on July 8. Then he looked sickly and listless, prompting speculation — later fuelled by his long absence from public view — that he was either ill or caught up in a power struggle.

A Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), report Sunday seemed designed to set quiet rumours at rest. It quoted top figures in the ruling Communist Party and military high command using the occasion of the memorial service to pledge loyalty to the younger Kim.

Ever since Kim Il-Sung's sudden death on July 8, North Korea's state media have heaped praise on his son, referring to him as uncontested leader.

Claes faces East Europe challenge in NATO job

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgium's Willy Claes takes over as NATO's top civilian official Monday as the Western alliance tries to promote closer ties with the former Soviet Bloc while struggling to make an impact on the war in Bosnia.

Mr. Claes, who succeeds the late Manfred Woerner of Germany as NATO secretary-general, plans to get straight down to work with little ceremony when he arrives at NATO headquarters to be greeted by his deputy Sergio Balanzino.

NATO sources said the arrival of Mr. Claes, who handed over his job as Belgian foreign minister last week to fellow Flemish Socialist Frank Vandenbroucke, would be regarded with relief at NATO as ending a period of leadership vacuum.

Mr. Woerner's battle with cancer meant he had to spend long periods in hospital or resting in the months before he died on Aug. 13, so that the question of the NATO succession was in the air for much of this year.

One urgent problem Mr. Claes will have to address is the role of NATO in providing close air support for U.N. peacekeeping troops in Bosnia and in backing up heavy weapons-exclusion zones there with the threat of air strikes in response to violations.

On the very day Mr. Claes takes over at the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), senior alliance officials will be in New York arguing their case with United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali for a tougher policy on air strikes.

The alliance, which came through the entire cold war without once firing in anger, has launched a series of limited air strikes this year in

pressure. NATO wrote to Dr. Ghali earlier this month recommending that response time be cut where appropriate for NATO to retaliate against exclusion zone violations.

NATO also wants to have the option of launching air strikes without warning and possibly against more than one target.

NATO sources stress that any air attack should be proportionate to the violations and that the U.N. authorities would still have joint control of operations. But the U.N. side fears more robust action would risk wider confrontations by hitting targets in areas not related to the original offence.

Beyond the immediate problems of trying to end the bloodshed in Bosnia, NATO under Mr. Claes's leadership will face its major challenge in fostering closer relations with East European countries without alienating or isolating Russia.

Opinion within the alliance is divided on the speed with which NATO should plan to expand to take in former Communist countries.

German Defence Minister Volker Ruehe called last month for NATO to announce soon which countries would be first to join, and said they should be Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. He added that Russia and Ukraine should be told they could not join.

Other defence ministers disagreed with this haste, arguing that the question was too sensitive and needed more time.

NATO is meanwhile trying to foster closer relations with all countries of the former Soviet Union as well as nearer eastern neighbours

Sri Lanka to scrap presidency after polls

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka's new government announced Sunday that it will move to scrap the country's controversial executive presidency shortly after next month's presidential elections.

The government will present draft proposals on Nov. 24 to dismantle the office of president and revert to parliamentary democracy under a new constitution, Justice Minister G. L. Peiris said.

He told reporters here that the government of Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga hoped to have a new constitution for the country by July 1995.

During the interim period, Mrs. Kumaratunga, 49, who led her People's Alliance (PA) to victory in the Aug. 16 general elections, will not exercise all the powers of president, Mr. Peiris said, expressing confidence of her victory.

Charles forced into loveless marriage — book

LONDON (R) — Prince Charles was forced into a loveless marriage with Princess Diana by his domineering father, according to an authorised biography of Britain's anguished heir to the throne.

Prince Charles likened the ill-fated union to a Greek tragedy and asked: "I never thought it would end up like this. How could I have got it so wrong?"

In a high-risk expose that could backfire on Prince Charles and plunge the British monarchy into crisis, he gave unparalleled access to broadcaster Jonathan Dimbleby for the biography.

The marriage, launched with much international fanfare in 1981 as a fairytale romance, is portrayed as stormy from the start with Princess Diana mutilating herself in attempted suicides and suffering from an eating disorder.

The book, serialised in the Sunday Times, said the young Diana's insecurity was fuelled by "the canker of jealousy" with her being convinced that Prince Charles was deceiving her with his old flame Camilla Parker-Bowles.

Prince Charles admitted in a television interview with Mr. Dimbleby in June that he had committed adultery when his marriage had broken down irretrievably.

His honesty won him plaudits and convinced Prince Charles to go ahead with the calculated risk of an authorised biography that he hoped would end an end to

A poll in the Sunday Express showed that a majority of Britons felt Prince Charles was wrong to have his son for a biographer. Nearly one in three felt he had damaged his parents with his portrait of a sad childhood.

Conservative Party lawmakers told Prince Charles to stop fighting with Princess Diana for public sympathy and media reports spoke of serious alarm in the government about the rapid erosion of public confidence in the monarchy.

The timing was also disastrous. Queen Elizabeth flies to Moscow Monday on the first Russian visit by a British monarch after decades of hostility to the land that executed her Romanov cousins.

The book portrays an angst-ridden prince dominated by his father, the Duke of Edinburgh, who issued him an ultimatum — propose to the shy young Diana or end the relationship.

His father also ordered Prince Charles to end one affair before it caused a scandal and another girl was told "she should make herself scarce."

Letters to friends showed he felt the marriage was on the rocks within five years. He wrote in 1986: "Frequently I feel nowadays that I'm in a kind of cage, pacing up and down it longing to be free."

"How awful incompatibility is and how dreadfully destructive it can be for the players in this extraordinary drama."

He felt trapped in a rather desperate cul-de-sac.

The Duke of Edinburgh is portrayed as stern father who reduced his son to tears. On life at his austere boarding school Gordonstoun, Prince Charles said: "It's such hell... it's such a hole here... the language people use is horrendous."

His great-uncle, Earl Mountbatten, was Prince Charles' closest confidant, advising him: "In a case like yours, a man should have as many affairs as he can before settling down."

Prince Charles proposed to Lord Mountbatten's granddaughter Amanda Knatchbull but she turned him down.

Lord Mountbatten was blown up and killed by Irish Republican guerrillas in 1979. Prince Charles was devastated, writing in his journal on the day of his death: "Life has to go on I suppose but this afternoon I must confess I want to stop."

"Kiss and tell" books about the royal family are one of the biggest growth industries in Britain — and the publishing bonanza shows no signs of drying up.

Bookshops are crammed with them and tabloids vie for the juiciest serialisation extracts. The best-selling contenders range from a saccharine romance written in pulp fiction prose to the soul-searching of a tortured prince.

For the tale of Diana and Charles is the stuff that soap operas are made of.

win the hearts of a nation.

Prince Charles Biography comes less than two weeks after publication of Princess In Love which claims to tell the tale of Princess Diana's five-year love affair with dashing young cavalry officer James Hewitt.

But the flood of royal books is far from over and publishers are rubbing their hands with glee.

Andrew Morton, who became a millionaire in 1992 with his book Diana — Her Own True Story, is to hit the bookstands again this month with Diana — Her New Life.

It was Mr. Morton who first shattered the fairytale image, portraying Princess Diana suffering from an eating disorder and attempting suicide as her marriage disintegrated. It was a huge international bestseller.

Others have jumped onto the royal bandwagon as Britons showed a voracious appetite for any titillating about the most public marriage breakup of the century.

Royal photographer Arthur Edwards from the tabloid Sun tried his luck with I'll Tell The Jokes Arthur, a book which tells of his career doorstepping the royal family. Leading royal watchers James Whitaker and Nigel Dempster also pitched their hats into the monarchical ring.

But it was Anna Pasternak who won the dubious accolade of being the most panned royal biographer — her Princess In Love was universally condemned by critics.

Do-it-yourself funerals booming in Britain

LONDON (R) — Do-it-yourself funerals are booming in Britain with artists decorating coffins and images of relatives being printed on shrouds. "Buying a coffin should be like buying a wardrobe," said Sue Giff from an arts group which arranged a three-day course for mortuary managers and AIDS counsellors entitled: "Funerals and how to make them more personal." "You should be able to go back with a flatpack coffin, take it home and decorate it," she told the Sunday Telegraph. At the course, artists exhibited coffins decorated with moons and stars. One even displayed a football fan's cremation urn complete with football studs drilled into the bottom.

Widower dies after bite from young lover

JAKARTA (AFP) — A 60-year-old widower has died after his girlfriend, half his age, bit his genitals while after making love, a report in the Kompas daily said here Sunday. Kasiran, from the village of Dukuseti, Central Java, died Friday after his girlfriend, Sri, 32, attacked his "vital organs". The front page report said Sri missed Kasiran because they had not met for a long time. Kompas said it was not yet clear if Kasiran died as a result of the bite or from other causes. Meanwhile, in Medan, North Sumatra, a 37-year-old man named Tut is recovering in the hospital after cutting off his genitals and burning them as part of a black magic ritual. The report says according to Tut's younger brother, the man wanted to be promoted to the position of manager of the private bus terminal where he worked.

British theatre audiences falling — study

LONDON (R) — Theatre audiences in the land of Shakespeare are falling and finding work as an actor is tougher than ever, according to a survey of British theatre managers. The survey, looking at both commercial and state-subsidised theatres, showed that 7.5 million people bought theatre tickets in 1993-1994 compared with 10 million in 1990-1991. The number of performances also fell from 24,500 to 18,500 over the same period, according to a survey.

Boos, cheers at 1st 2 nights of Royal Opera's Ring

LONDON (AP) — The Royal Opera House took a pause Saturday after two nights of boos for the start of its new cycle in Richard Wagner's Ring Of The Nibelung. Siegfried, the third work in the cycle is due in March 1995 and the concluding Twilight Of The Gods the following October. The opera house wouldn't say whether the protests over the staging of the first two, Rhinegold Thursday and Valkyrie Friday, will force changes. But house is expected to stick it out grimly with the original ideas of British production duo, director Richard Jones and designer Nigel Lowery. There were enthusiastic bravos for the music and singing but stormy derision and shouts of "rubbish" for the often weird and wacky staging. The famous ride of the Valkyries scene saw New York soprano Deborah Polaski as Brunnhilde presiding over her warrior maidens around a stewpot. All dressed in black with skeletons painted on, plus short, bouncy skirts and plumed helmets, they handed their mistress bits of bodies to be dunked in the pot. Then in a cloud of steam an inexplicable man in a loincloth jumped out of the pot and scurried into the wings. Fricka, the queen of god-king Wotan, who is supposed to arrive in a chariot stepped out instead from what looked like an armoured Rolls-Royce. There were some gasps and giggles and a few loud laughs from the audience who had paid from £5 to £135.50 (\$8 to \$211) for seats. The car later switched on headlights, folded up and disappeared down a hole. In the Valkyrie climax, where Brunnhilde is put to sleep on a mountain-





South African President Nelson Mandela (centre), Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthe (left) and Energy Minister P. W. Botha wave to supporters at Orlando Stadium in

the township of Soweto, where they addressed a rally to celebrate national safety and security day (AFP photo)

Peace may return to S. Africa's streets

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Peace may be returning to some of South Africa's streets of fear, which a few months ago echoed to the sound of gunfire and the cries of the victims of violence.

With arms clasped around one another, President Nelson Mandela, his most vocal political foe Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthe and P. W. Botha, ex-foreign minister in the last white government, carried messages of unity and hope to dirt-poor townships scarred by years of violence and apartheid unrest.

"They showed us it (unity) is achievable, that we don't have to kill each other," ANC supporter Solomon Kumalo told Reuters Sunday.

"It gave us something to hope for."

"There have been absolutely no violence (overnight) it's dead quiet," police spokesman Lieutenant Jan Combrinck said Sunday.

Some blacks had stared in open-mouthed amazement as the three leaders stood shoulder-to-shoulder on the back of a police truck ferrying them around Johannesburg's townships Saturday.

In Vosloorus, once one of the most violent townships in

the country, banners of Mr. Mandela's ruling African National Congress (ANC) and Mr. Buthe's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) flew side by side.

ANC and Inkatha supporters, who only five months ago were literally at each other's throats, sat together for some time to listen to their leaders, although many left a few minutes into a speech by the Zulu chief.

One woman, a member of the township choir, said the peace tour was long overdue. "Why don't they do this four years ago, less people would have died," she said, referring to the deaths of more than 15,000 people, most of them blacks, in turf wars between the ANC and their Inkatha rivals since then-President F. W. de Klerk unbanned opposition groups and began dismantling apartheid.

While political violence has declined since the April elections which ended more than three centuries of white power, Mr. Mandela and his national unity government, of which Mr. Buthe, Mr. de Klerk and Mr. Botha are members, has declared war on crime.

"As long as I am the presi-

dent of this country I am going to go all out to destroy crime," said Mr. Mandela, warning township-dwellers that it was threatening the post-apartheid reconstruction of South Africa, now political unrest had all but been eradicated.

Mr. Buthe, whose relations with the ANC have been marked by distrust and suspicion, went out of his way during the rallies to tell supporters in both camps the days of violence were over.

"On this historic day, President Nelson Mandela and I have finally come together as the political leaders of the new South Africa to join hands and share the responsibility," he said.

He said partisan armed groups, blamed for much of the township violence, "have to work together... against a common enemy of violence, crime and intimidation."

To underline that rap-

prochement, several hundred former gunmen, clad in newly-issued dark blue police reserve uniforms, paraded in front of the leaders in Vosloorus pledging to fight crime rather than each other.

On Khumalo Street, once a "free-fire zone" separating Inkatha-supporting migrant workers living in hostels from ANC-supporting township residents, state television showed jubilant blacks from both sides of the fence at peace for the first time in years.

"Members of the South African Police Service are your police. They are not the police of apartheid," Mr. Mandela told the rally in Vosloorus township.

"Attacks on the police are totally unacceptable," added Mr. Mandela, who as a political prisoner for 27 years personally experienced the harshness of the apartheid-era forces of law and order.

"The community... should help protect the police by denying refuge to the criminals who carry out such attacks... expose the criminals," he added.

Nearly 200 police men and women have been killed so far this year — about a third of them in attacks while on duty.

While political violence has fallen dramatically since South Africa's first all-race elections in April, at least 58 people a day were murdered in criminal violence in the first six months of the year. Most of the killers and victims were black.

Initial reports had said that 100 insurgents had crossed over to the government side, accompanied by their commander.

The minister said: "I think the number is a little less — 76."

Commander Rin's wife defected last Tuesday. Senior army officers said she returned to the Vine Mountain base Friday to persuade her husband and his supporters to follow.

Last Thursday she had met army officers and been escorted by Phnom Penh for briefings with senior intelligence officers before being returned to her home at Kep.

likely Socialist candidate and running neck-and-neck with the premier.

Industry Minister Gerard Longuet, who resigned Friday was expected to be replaced by the secretary-general of his own Republican Party (PR), Jose Rosso, but probably with a different portfolio, the sources said.

Mr. Longuet's three portfolios — industry, post and telecommunications and foreign trade — were expected to be shared among existing ministers.

Mr. Longuet stands accused of paying a bargain basement price for his second home in the French Riviera resort of Saint-Tropez in a corrupt transaction and shady dealing over the acquisition of the PR's Paris headquarters and the party's financing.

Alain Carignon, who resigned last July as communication minister and was charged with fraud, was indicted with the more serious count of corruption Thursday and remanded in custody. His job was taken by Budget Minister Nicolas Sarkozy.

Mr. Balladur was also embarrassed by an open row between two top ministers, with Interior Minister Charles Pasqua criticising Foreign Minister Alain Juppe for joining Mr. Chirac's campaign for the presidentials.

"It is up to (Juppe) to say to what extent he can reconcile the two functions (of minister and Chirac advisor)," Mr. Pasqua said in a newspaper interview.

Bosnian troops refuse to leave Sarajevo demilitarised zone

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian forces deployed in the demilitarised zone (DMZ) of Mount Igman failed to withdraw despite being asked to do so by U.N. forces, a spokesman for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) said Sunday.

"We have recorded no movement by the troops," Major Koos Sol said. The Bosnian army is mainly composed of Muslims.

On Saturday another U.N. spokesman had said that the 500 troops, who are violating the agreement on the demilitarisation of the sector signed in August 1993, were "supposed to leave" that day.

U.N. headquarters now believe that the military commander in the sector is refusing to honour the assurances given publicly by the government in Sarajevo that it would evacuate the zone, which covers 28 mountainous square kilometres (11 square miles) and is in theory demilitarised.

"We think that Major Fikret Prevljak, who has authority over Igman and the area around the airport, is under the direct influence of the President (Alija Izetbegovic)," a senior U.N. officer who requested anonymity told AFP Sunday.

Mr. Izetbegovic caused universal surprise on Oct. 7 when he declared that "the Bosnian army was not forbidden to be in the so-called demilitarised zone."

"The government is making a link between the DMZ and the 20-kilometre heavy weapons total exclusion zone around Sarajevo, where they say the Serbs have kept ban-

ned weapons," the senior officer said.

He added: "It has to be understood that Major Prevljak controls everything that comes into Sarajevo through the tunnel" which runs from Igman to the city under the runways of the airport, which is controlled by French U.N. troops.

"So he is a powerful man. What is going on around DMZ has more to do with politics than military tactics," he said.

Attempts by French U.N. troops deployed in Igman to try to get the DMZ respected seem, therefore, certain to fail, in the view of observers in Sarajevo.

That view is lent weight by the statement Friday by a Bosnian army commander that the DMZ "does not exist and never has existed." This senior officer told AFP, on condition that he was not identified, that "our troops are still in the zone and they are going to stay there."

Serb forces in Bosnia have threatened an offensive if U.N. troops do not succeed in removing Bosnian troops from the DMZ by Oct. 21. The ultimatum followed a raid by a Bosnian army commando on Oct. 6 in which 20 out of 26 occupants of a Serb command post on the edge of the DMZ were killed.

"This ultimatum is just a threat which won't be carried out," the Bosnian officer said.

The DMZ on Igman was created to stop a Serb offensive which was on the point of cutting the only clandestine supply route into Sarajevo. The Serbs agreed to pull back on condition that the U.N.

guaranteed that the Bosnian army would not take advantage of their withdrawal.

But the terrain on the mountain, one of the sites of the 1984 Winter Olympics, is rugged and heavily wooded and French soldiers have not been able to prevent infiltration by infantry.

Meanwhile Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic has launched a bitter attack on the international community, accusing it of pandering to the Serbs and ignoring the "strangulation" of Sarajevo.

He said the latest phase of the Bosnian "peace process" had played into the hands of the government of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

Mr. Silajdzic said the major powers were responding to the humanitarian crisis in Sarajevo as if it were simply a natural disaster rather than the result of two-and-a-half years of siege by Serb forces.

"They are... treating it as a natural catastrophe, so they are bringing aid into Sarajevo. This is not a natural catastrophe, this is a man-made catastrophe," he said in an interview with Reuters Television Saturday.

"It is quite clear, Sarajevo is being strangled because it is being used as leverage to extract a political settlement that suits the regime in Belgrade."

He added: "So this is blackmail, by the international community practically agreeing with this."

International sanctions against Belgrade have been eased to reward Mr. Milosevic for his decision to mount a military blockade against the Bosnian Serbs fol-

lowing their refusal to accept the latest international peace plan.

Mr. Silajdzic made clear he expected NATO to fulfill a commitment that it should be called in to mount air strikes against the Serbs to force them to end the siege of Sarajevo.

"Sarajevo is being strangled as you know. We expect NATO to act according to that commitment unless Sarajevo is reopened again, because we are facing winter. We have a shortage of food, shortage of fuel."

Mr. Silajdzic made clear his government would not accept any changes in the peace plan, which awards 51 per cent of Bosnia to the Muslim-Croat alliance and the rest to the Serbs who would have to give up about a third of the 70 per cent they now hold.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe recently hinted at possible amendments to the peace plan, drawn up by a five-nation "contact group" on Bosnia, in order to break an impasse in attempts to persuade the Serbs to accept it.

"The contact group commitment was not to talk any more about the peace plan until the Bosnian Serbs accept the peace plan," Mr. Silajdzic said.

"They have not accepted the peace plan and now we hear from some of the contact group countries that they consider changing the plan. This will kill the credibility of the contact group."

The contact group is comprised of the United States, Russia, Britain, Germany and France.

Macedonians vote for new president, parliament

SKOPJE (R) — Macedonians voted Sunday to elect a new president and parliament for their tiny republic which has managed to avoid the wars that have plagued the other republics seceding from former Yugoslavia.

Morning turnout was heavy in the first presidential and only the second parliamentary polls since Macedonia broke away from the former Balkan federation in 1992. Election Commission officials said.

All the candidates campaigned over the past month essentially on the issue of "war or peace," each claiming that, if their opponents were elected, the state would slide into ethnic violence or confrontation with its neighbours.

The potential threats are manifold in a region where sovereignty has shifted many times over the centuries. The refusal by Serbia and Greece to recognise the new state and Bulgaria's qualified recognition underline the tensions.

President Kiro Gligorov, a veteran politician who for four years has steered the country clear of ethnic strife and showdown with its neighbours, is the candidate of the ruling three-party union for Macedonia coalition.

The 77-year-old president's campaign slogan "independence, peace and security" and his pledges of security, alleging that nationalism could upset stability, have won him the support of the country's large ethnic Albanian community.

The Albanians say they account for as much as 40 per cent of the population. Authorities halve that figure.

Mr. Gligorov's rival is Ljubisa Georgievski of the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation (IMRO), who argues that Mr. Gligorov has failed to reform the old Communist system and has sold out to Greek and Albanian demands.

Mr. Georgievski's slogan "Macedonia for the Macedonians" is not expected to win much sympathy from the 1,389,000 voters longing to hear talk of economic revival.

Land-locked Macedonia, the poorest of all ex-Yugoslavia's republics, is hard hit by U.N. sanctions against rump Yugoslavia and a trade embargo slapped by Greece which disputes the republic's name.

Its neighbours, Serbia to the north, Bulgaria to the east, Albania to the west and Greece to the south have already fought two bloody Balkan wars at the start of the century.

U.S., N. Korea resume nuclear talks

GENEVA (Agencies) — Senior officials from North Korea and the United States unexpectedly resumed negotiations on reshaping Pyongyang's nuclear programme Sunday, a day after reporting that no progress was being made.

Diplomats said U.S. Ambassador-at-large Robert Gallucci headed a small U.S. delegation for talks at the North Korean mission with Deputy Foreign Minister Kang Sok-Ju.

On Saturday an accord appeared to be close laying out the terms and timetable for North Korea's switch from graphite reactors to light-water models which produce little of the plutonium Pyongyang is accused of having diverted for arms.

But after an evening meeting between Mr. Gallucci and Mr. Kang both delegations said no progress had been made and a North Korean official angrily accused Washington of adopting "an unacceptable, abnormal position."

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Hubbard, number two in Washington's team, said then that no talks were planned for Sunday.

U.S. and North Korean mission spokesmen said it was not known how long Sunday's meeting would last.

Neither Mr. Hubbard nor his North Korean counterpart Ho Jong offered any details of what had blocked agreement Saturday. Diplomats said the Communists

were "hanging tough" in the last stages of the negotiations.

Saturday's reverse had come after increasing signs that a deal was close, that would formalise and flesh out an outline accord reached in August.

Under that accord North Korea agreed to freeze its graphite reactor construction programme and close down its one experimental reactor if the United States created a consortium of nations to provide it with the much more costly light-water reactor.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord said in Washington Friday that the negotiations "may be on the verge of a rather significant breakthrough."

100 feared dead as Bangladesh ferry sinks

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh (R) — More than 100 people were feared to have drowned Sunday in Bangladesh's second ferry disaster in two months, police said.

They said 44 bodies had been retrieved after a ferry carrying a 165-strong bridal party went down in the turbulent Bay of Bengal.

Some 55 passengers managed to reach the shore following the accident near Madarbari Island, 40 kilometres from the resort town of Cox's Bazar.

Survivors said 66 people

were still missing and they feared they had drowned.

The bodies of 12 men and 32 women and children had been found, police told reporters.

A police officer said the search for the missing members of the bridal party was continuing, without giving details.

Nearly 350 Bangladeshis were killed after a ferry capsized in a whirlpool on the Meghna River near Chandpur, 100 kilometres southeast of Dhaka in August.

Only 30 bodies were found

after that accident.

The rivers of low-lying Bangladesh have been the scene of some of the world's worst ferry accidents in recent years.

In May 1986, some 600 people died when a ferry carrying at least 1,000 passengers capsized in the Meghna in a storm.

Boat tragedies in Bangladesh kill up to 2,500 people every year. Boats carry 60 per cent of total passengers and merchandise in this overcrowded nation of more than 100 million people.

Irish Republicans want talks with Protestant leaders now

LONDON (R) — Leading Irish Republican Martin McGuinness said Sunday he wanted to stage immediate talks with Protestant leaders now that guerrillas on both sides of the sectarian divide had laid down their arms.

Prominent Protestant activist David Ervine, who helped broker the Protestant ceasefire, stuck a more cautious note, however. "We have got to go slowly," he said.

With the guns finally silent in Northern Ireland after 25 years of conflict, Mr. McGuinness accused the British government of "running scared" and said peace talks should start immediately.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA), which has long battled to oust Britain from Northern Ireland, declared a ceasefire six weeks ago. Protestant guerrillas followed suit last week.

After centuries of mistrust and enmity between Protestant and Catholic, Mr. Ervine from the Progressive Unionist Party and Mr. McGuinness from the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, spoke of the urgency of moving the peace process forward.

Mr. McGuinness said on BBC Television: "I would

like to meet with David Ervine tomorrow morning. I have no difficulty about that whatsoever."

Mr. Ervine, also interviewed by Sir David Frost on the same show, replied: "Not tomorrow morning... We have got to go slowly. Let us be careful whose agenda we are following and take our time."

Mr. McGuinness renewed Sinn Fein pleas for Britain to come to the negotiating table.

"The British government is stalling," he said.

"I think we are actually seeing the British government running scared of talks with Sinn Fein. It is quite clear they cannot be put off and now talks will take place in the next few weeks in my opinion."

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams accused the British government — which is holding back on talks until it receives more proof the six-week-old IRA truce is permanent — of trying to "slow down the momentum of the peace process for tactical reasons."

Mr. Major's approach to talks from the outset "has been hesitant, slow and reluctant," said Mr. Adams, who

returned Saturday from a three-week visit to the United States.

"... There will have to be talks as soon as possible involving both the British and Irish governments and all the political parties — including Sinn Fein," Mr. Adams told reporters at Dublin Airport.

Earlier, Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds said he believes Mr. Major in his own time will capitalise on the new climate of peace.

"... We'll get there... where we always wanted to get from the first day we met," Mr. Reynolds told BBC Radio.

Mr. Reynolds said that in a call to Mr. Major Friday, he had stressed "the desire of an awful lot of people to try to consolidate it (peace) and make sure that the opportunity isn't lost."

Mr. Major, who must protect the interests of Northern Ireland's Protestant majority, told the Tory conference, "other people call for speed. But I must make the hard decisions."

"I must make the right judgment at the right time. And I will."

Protestant paramilitaries say their ceasefire, announced Thursday, will last as long as the IRA truce.

French bosses vie for power in presidency dry run

PARIS (Agencies) — The campaign to choose France's new "boss of bosses" has begun in earnest, a head-to-head struggle that many see as a dry run for the fight to lead the nation between Edouard Balladur and Jacques Chirac.

The two candidates for the presidency of the CNPF employers federation are Jean-Louis Giral, a political ally of Paris Mayor Chirac, and Jean Gandois, said to be favoured by Prime Minister Balladur.

A General Assembly of Conseil National du Patronat Français (CNPF) on Dec. 13 will choose the successor to Michel Perigot — just when the undeclared contest between Gaullists Chirac and Balladur for the conservative mantle in May's presidential race should be coming out into the open.

The French press depicts the CNPF campaign as pitting a small-business capitalist entrepreneur — Mr. Giral — against the technocratic managerial elite that run big business — personified by Mr. Gandois, whose rival calls him a mandarin.

Mr. Gandois, 64, who stepped down as head of state aluminium group Pechiney in July, has a slight lead, newspapers say.

The difficulties of Mr. Giral, 60, millionaire head of family building company Desquenne et Giral, mirror the troubles of his friend Mr. Chirac, who has seen his dreams of power jeopardised by Mr. Balladur's surprise popularity as premier.

Gaullist leader Chirac,

twice prime minister himself, hopes to efface two failed bids for the presidency with a third run next year in an election the right has every chance of winning.

But Mr. Balladur, whom Mr. Chirac put forward last year to "cohabit" with Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, has raced past him in the opinion polls.

There are a number of comparisons between the CNPF race and the real presidential election.

Mr. Giral, who sits as a Gaullist on Paris City Council, is an energetic action man — like Mr. Chirac. And he wants more radical government action to bolster economic growth — like Mr. Chirac.

Unlike Mr. Chirac, he campaigned against French ratification of the Maastricht Treaty on European Union in 1992. But his identification with Gaullists' anti-European wing distances him from the pro-European Balladur.

The pro-European Gandois, head of state company, has close relations with politicians across the spectrum, though he made his views on state ownership clear by resigning as head of chemicals group Rhone-Poulenc in 1982 when Mr. Mitterrand nationalised it.

His long career in the upper echelons of the state economic administration makes him more akin to Mr. Balladur.

At stake in running the CNPF is control over an influential lobby and a big say

in negotiations on the future of France's financially troubled Social Security Systems, which the employers run with trade unions under official supervision.

As Mr. Balladur and Mr. Chirac slug it out to persuade conservative power brokers they can be the first to win the presidential palace for the Gaullists in 25 years, the Gandois-Giral contest has taken on added significance.

Some commentators see the outcome as an indirect indicator of business confidence in the presidential candidates. They argue that industrialists may vote for the man they think will be best placed to deal with France's next president.

Meanwhile Mr. Balladur hurried to reshuffle his corruption-hit government Sunday in a bid to restore its credibility and preserve his own chances in next year's presidential election.

With one minister in jail since Thursday and a second who resigned Friday over allegedly corrupt property deals, Mr. Balladur had to act quickly to restore his authority amid increasing bickering among surviving members of his government.

The reshuffle, which will be limited, was expected to be announced later Sunday or Monday, political sources said.

Mr. Balladur was also trying to reverse a trend which has seen the star of European Commission President Jacques Delors rising in the presidential stakes as the

Jordan Times

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For the violence to end

DURING NEARLY three decades of ruthless occupation, Israel failed to end the Palestinian resistance to its presence in the West Bank and Gaza. Despite its well-equipped security apparatus and oppressive policies, Israel could not end the activities of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, against the occupation. Israel, therefore, is defying logic by expecting the nascent Palestine National Authority (PNA) to control the activities of Hamas.

Israel knows very well that the PNA will not be able to end the presence of Hamas on the Palestinian political arena by resorting to violence. It also knows that by pressuring the PNA to deal with Hamas in an oppressive and undemocratic way, it is setting the stage for massive disorder and disturbances in the occupied territories.

Cracking down on Hamas will not achieve the objective of bringing about stability and security to Palestine. The PNA cannot afford to replace Israel as the oppressor of the Palestinian people. After so many years of occupation, what the Palestinians need is a democratic government that respects the law and upholds human rights. Ironically, Israel says it too wants a democratic Palestinian self-rule authority while everything it is doing indicates that what it is really seeking is obliteration of all forms of resistance to its occupation of Arab lands.

Israel hides behind its democratic cover when dealing with Israeli extremists who oppose the peace process as much as Hamas does. Those Israeli extremists are part of the Israeli system of government; they are represented in parliament and they have public fora from which they call for ending the peace process and evicting all Palestinians from the occupied Arab lands. What is even more ironic is that Israel will not break the law to belittle the influence of Israeli hardliners or check their unlawful activities in Israel and the occupied territories but is asking the Palestinians to do so when dealing with Hamas. That speaks volumes about Israel's hypocrisy and proves that its only concern is to protect its immediate interests even if that was on the expense of the Palestinians or the long-term stability of the area.

A year after the Oslo accord, Israel has done little to demonstrate its commitment to the various agreements it signed with the Palestinians. Its stalling in implementing the provisions of these accords has helped undermine much of the credibility of the peace process among the Palestinians. That in turn has given more credence to the opponents of the Oslo accord and is driving sceptics towards opposition.

Israel should not be pushing the PNA towards dictatorship if it is really interested in having peace and stability prevail in the region. It should be working to rally more support for the Oslo accord by implementing its provisions. When Israel withdraws its troops from the Palestinian areas, when it helps the Palestinians achieve early empowerment, when it allows the holding of democratic elections and when it frees thousands of Palestinian detainees, people will have more faith in the peace process and then violence will recede.

Before that happens, however, Palestinians will have little reason to stop their resistance activities against Israel. Support for the PNA will start to erode and hardliners will rule the day. The peace process can only be the victim of such a scenario which is becoming more likely due if only because of Israel's misguided policies.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Sunday accused Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of being solely responsible for the death of the kidnapped Israeli soldier, stressing that the iron-fist policy which he continues to pursue has backfired and could cause adverse consequences to the Israeli society. By following the collective punishment policy against the Palestinian people and by closing the Gaza Strip, Mr. Rabin has not ended Israel's headaches but rather increased them and created an atmosphere in which Hamas and also the supporters of the Oslo deal found themselves against the occupation and more determined to end it, said the daily. It is Mr. Rabin and his government that is responsible for the acts of terrorism exercised against the Palestinian people through the settlers and the soldiers and it is this very policy that caused the end of the life of the kidnapped soldier, whose release could have been secured through negotiations with the Hamas leadership, added the paper. The paper said that time and again experiences have proved that the use of violence can only breed violence and that no lasting peace can be achieved in an atmosphere of terror, intimidation and occupation.

IN JUST four months, the Control and Inspection Bureau was able to save JD 2.2 million for the state treasury from the hands of irresponsible officials in government departments and succeeded in stopping 151 other violations in others, said Mohammed Daoud, a columnist in Al Dastour. The fact that this happened in a space of four months gives indications that corruption and abuse of authority is still rife in government circles, and that the bureau has no alternative but to intensify its current campaign to control the situation, said the writer. Indeed financial and administrative corruption and mismanagement of public funds willingly or inadvertently means either that those filling many posts are incompetent and unfit to handle their duties or that the government's leniency in applying strict regulations and punishing the culprits is still far from being terminated, said the writer. The writer urged the government to give more powers to the bureau and more independence to remain outside the sphere of any party's influences so as to be able to serve the nation.

HUMAN RIGHTS FILE

By Waleed Sadi

Time to address economic woes

HUMAN RIGHTS activists are often obsessed with political and civil rights and ignore economic social and cultural rights as articulated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESR). Here in Jordan, as elsewhere in the Third World, the latter category of human rights are just as pressing if not more pressing than the former kind. With poverty rampant and the number of poverty-stricken people on the rise, the continued neglect of economic issues as they relate to the rank and file of Jordanians threatens to undermine the democratic process itself and in turn the stability and security of the country.

We all know also that poverty, if neglected, could contribute to crime and other social disorders. That we have a higher than usual crime rate in the country is a foregone conclusion. When people have no opportunity to earn a living in a decent way, they naturally opt for violence and crime to fill their empty stomachs and feed their children. I don't think there are two Jordanians who would disagree on these propositions even though there is always disagreement about the extent of poverty in the country. High officials are usually more concerned with macro economic planning and are the least concerned about micro economic programmes that have the most immediate impact on the majority of the people in this country.

So while we are busy fulfilling the economic and financial prescription of the World Bank, the empty stomachs in the Kingdom remain empty and in the process the minds and souls of the affected people become more and more poisoned. I dare say that if poverty in Jordan is not treated and treated quickly, it may undermine even what we proudly achieved in the peace process. This growing crisis goes on unabated because of the continuing preoccupation of the government with more grandiose schemes and plans for the country. I don't think we can afford to wait for the so-called peace dividend to feed our people because that may take longer than is healthy for the country. I believe there is a good case for starting the process of economic healing at the grass roots level before the crisis gets out of control.

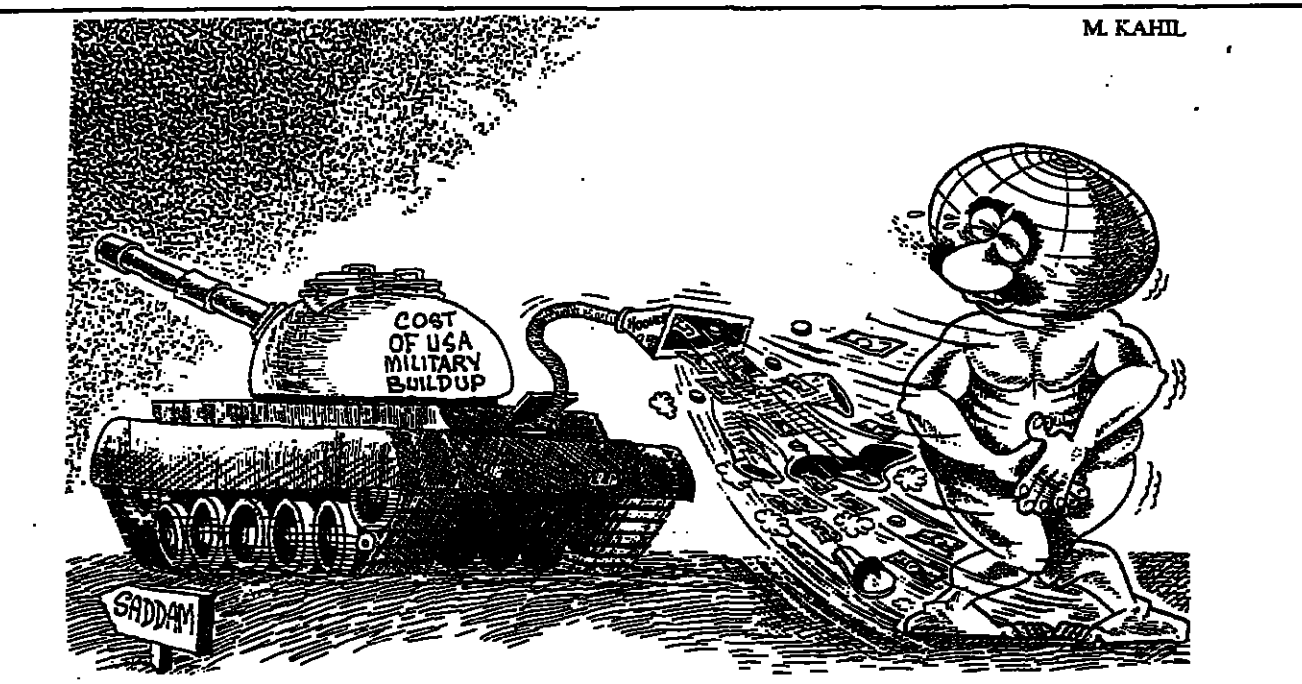
Some of our concerned officials should make a point of visiting some of the homes of the poor among us in order to begin to relate to them and sympathise with their plight.

Some 20 years ago, the International Labour Office in Geneva (ILO) made a very serious recommendation to countries of the world on how to go about their economic planning and rearrange their economic priorities. In so many words, the ILO called on the member states to think first and foremost about their people and their immediate needs when they embark on charting their future course in economic planning. When there is poverty and mass unemployment, as is the case here in Jordan, the ILO recommended that the affected countries make the creation of jobs the immediate objective of their planning.

I cannot think of a better prescription to the plight of Jordanians than the two-decade old panacea proposed by the ILO. In other words, instead of concentrating only on projects that are economically feasible, countries suffering from high unemployment problems should create work opportunities even though there appears to be no long-term viability for such opportunities.

Ending unemployment and alleviating poverty must therefore be the immediate objectives of our government. There are no signs that the concerned officials are even thinking along these terms. Our over-occupation with the "orders" of the International Monetary Fund are making us oblivious to the plight of the most needy amongst us. This negligence, which is anything but benign, must stop if we wish to harvest the full fruits of the peace process.

Job creating projects are not difficult to identify and establish. They need to be labour-intensive industries or construction programmes. Take, for example, Amman. There is a lot that could be done to clean it up by employing thousands of jobless people. The streets and side walks of the capital are in a mess and could use idle hands to put them in proper shape. Forestation of the country can be best advanced by labourers using simple tools. No matter what we decide to choose as means to employ our people, we must do it now and not later.



After Oslo: a year of disappointment

By Laika Dajani

SEPTEMBER MARKED the first anniversary of the signing of the Oslo Accords between Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington. There was much media hype to the event, with globally televised images of beaming Israelis and Palestinians. Israelis in Jerusalem were shown wearing "peace" T-shirts, while Palestinians in Jericho were shown waving hastily made national flags. There was certainly a strong current of optimism and a general feeling that the Oslo Declaration of Principles (DOP) could really work.

The DOP was vague enough, and blunt enough, to reassure Israelis that Mr. Rabin was handing the occupied territories to Mr. Arafat on a silver plate; and it was specific enough for Mr. Arafat to deem it a step in the right direction for his goal of a future Palestinian state. Issues such as free and fair elections, transfer of power, public order and security, economic cooperation, Israeli military redeployment and economic development, were all covered somewhat briefly in print, with enough leeway for Israel to put the brakes on the whole process if these issues were not adequately resolved. Since the September ceremony, 12 months of frantic negotiations have ensued with Mr. Rabin, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Mr. Arafat and his ever-tightening entourage grappling frantically with the implementation of the declaration's articles. There has been disagreement, disappointment and disillusionment on both sides.

The first four months heralded little progress. There were several high-level meetings to discuss the nitty-gritty of the declaration, but the net result of such contact yielded very little for the Palestinians on the ground in the territories. Progress was marked more by the founding of various Palestinian organisations to deal with promises of aid from international

al donors such as the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR). Even his organisation experienced severe birth pains, with Mr. Arafat determined to maintain control, and appointing loyalists to positions for which they were far from qualified. The obvious confusion of Mr. Arafat, and the perception that the PLO was an entity in shambles, lessened the buoyant optimism of potential donors, the result being that very little aid materialised. Although in the territories Palestinian flags were seen legally displayed for the first time, life continued as usual: there was no mass exodus of the Israeli forces from Gaza, nor from Jericho. The Dec. 13 date for the start of a gradual withdrawal came and went, with no grand exit even hinted at.

As for the Israelis, the increasing disarray on Mr. Arafat's side only confirmed the worst fears of Israeli sceptics. Even Mr. Peres, more gentle and accommodating than Mr. Rabin, grew frustrated with what many saw as foot-dragging on the Palestinian side. Israel had already committed itself on paper to a withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and was in no mood to bail out the other side.

February brought a potential nightmare scenario. Baruch Goldstein's massacre of Palestinians in Hebron threatened to break the tenuous thread holding the talks together. Militant Israeli settlers eagerly spouted phrases such as "An Arab is not worth one Jewish finger-nail," and Palestinians cried out for West Bank settlers to be brought to justice. Yet, to the credit of both sides, the massacre failed to seriously disrupt the ongoing negotiations. Mr. Rabin tried to appease Palestinians by tracking down several violently racist settlers and make a speech condemning such extremists. Palestinians, although outraged, were only able to mutter their dissatisfaction.

The next momentous event was in May, with the Cairo signing of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement. Broadcast live by satellite, the world for the first time watched the fragility of Mr. Arafat's position as he publicly refused to sign the map of the Jericho area. After back-stage bullying by President Hosni Mubarak, who supposedly threatened that Mr. Arafat would never set foot in Egypt again if he did not acquiesce, Mr. Arafat grudgingly signed on the dotted line. The agreement, despite its hiccup, did speed up the Israeli withdrawal, for it required Israeli forces to evacuate their military bases within three weeks. Soon afterwards, Palestinian police, once members of the PLO's exiled standing army, arrived jubilantly in Gaza and Jericho.

Although the Palestinian police force is a significant step, the summer months have revealed a vast web of incompetence on the part of Mr. Arafat and growing disillusionment amongst even those who form part of his close-knit circle of loyalists. Mr. Arafat has continued to stress the issue of Jerusalem in negotiations, although this was clearly defined in the DOP as a topic to be addressed "not later than the beginning of the third year of the interim period." His insistence only further irks Mr. Rabin who, when the two meet, tries to control his overwhelming dislike. Mr. Arafat's behaviour reeks of unprofessionalism, a very dangerous trait for a man in a position of leadership during a period of tumultuous transition.

Arafat's credibility in doubt

In fact, he looks increasingly desperate. As a revolutionary in exile, he was brilliant at stirring up the nationalist fervour necessary to hold a people's collective consciousness together. The PLO thrived on its plethora of organisations, all designed to cement the national identity into a coherent form. But Mr. Arafat was never a true statesman; he never had the skills, the far-sightedness or

the opportunity to exercise such talents. Now he is dealing with his greatest challenge, which could and should be to establish a Palestinian entity, democratic in principle and democratic in action.

It is true that Gaza and Jericho are no longer subject to Israeli military patrols, and it is true that one feels a sense of freedom unknown before. But this is not Arafat's doing, merely the implementation of some basic tenets in the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Mr. Arafat's role must be to give reassurance to those full of doubts; and there are many full of misgivings on the Israeli, the Palestinian and the foreign donor sides. The Palestinians left behind in 1967 are not the same as those in 1994. Twenty-seven years of occupation have hardened them, as well as opening their eyes. The new generation inside the territories does not want an incompetent authority figure to dictate to them; they have suffered too long for that to be their reward.

Mr. Arafat has little time to recover from his seriously undermined credibility. He must stick to the DOP and discuss the various issues at the appropriate time, thereby inspiring more confidence in Mr. Rabin and foreign donors; he must appoint qualified professional individuals loyal to the success of the agreement, not to himself; and he must listen to the pulse of his Palestinian constituency. The Palestinians need an individual of exceptional maturity, wisdom and vision to take them through to independence; so far, Mr. Arafat has proved sorely lacking in such qualities. He must either acquire them or gracefully step down for others more competent to fill his place. If not, the DOP may become another obsolete document, of interest for its failure rather than for its success.

Laika Dajani a Palestinian freelance writer living in London. The article is reprinted from Middle East International.

Working for sustainable development

By Janette Ryan

A RANGE of conferences and consultative processes will be held around the world in the coming months to prepare for the Commission on Sustainable Development's (CSD) third session in April next year.

The 1995 session is likely to be controversial as it will assess progress made since United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) on the sustainable development issues associated with land resource use, including forests.

In addition to these conferences, the CSD's two working groups, the finance group and a new working group set up to examine all the sectoral issues on the CSD's agenda in 1995 will meet early next year.

This follows a solid start at its second session in New York in May which monitored progress made by the international community in implementing Agenda 21 since the U.N. Conference on the Environment and Development in 1992.

A compromise deal was struck between the developed and developing countries which revised the mandate of the finance working group, discontinued the technology transfer working group and established a new group which was given a one-year mandate to look at forests, land resources, biodiversity and desertification. Both working groups will meet for one week in early 1995.

The New York meeting was the first to review progress on Agenda 21 under the four-year thematic work programme adopted by the CSD in 1993.

The Australian Minister for Environment Sport and Territories, Senator John Faulkner was one of more than 40 ministers whose participation in a high-level segment at the end of the session added political impetus to the "new and emerging issues" which were identified as requiring further work. These were trade and the environment, changing consumption and production patterns and the need to develop indicators of sustainability to help measure progress.

To panel discussions held in the margins of the high level segment resulted in lively debate on the issues of women and sustainable development, and sustainable development and the economy.

Toxic chemicals

The commission focused on the Agenda 21 chapters dealing with health, human settlements, freshwater, toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes and radioactive wastes (sectoral issues) as well as progress in relation

to the availability of financial resources, transfer of technology to developing consumption and production patterns (cross-sectoral issues).

In the review of progress on financial resources and technology transfer, developing countries made clear their concerns that donor countries had not lived up to the Rio commitments on new and additional resources. The G-7 regarded the replenishment of the Global Environment Facility as "a first step at a minimum level."

On finance, the CSD noted that it would be useful to develop a matrix of economic policy options and financial instruments.

On the transfer of environmentally sound technology, the commission recognised the primary role of the private sector and the role of governments in establishing the enabling conditions. The commission set out a menu of practical and innovative measures to enhance the up-take of appropriate technology in developing countries which recognised the benefits of adequate intellectual property protection, a free and open trading system, and of building institutional capacity. The commission acknowledged the differentiated responsibilities and developing countries to address unsustainable patterns of consumption and production and called on all governments to consider taking a range of measures.

Two major themes dominated the discussion on trade and the environment: the nature and extent of the CSD's role on trade and the environment, and the need for the CSD to take a "balanced" view of the issues involved, including the need for further work on the environmental aspects of trade policies.

The commission decided to review annually developments in the area of trade, development and environment. Its role would be to identify possible gaps in work and promote coordination among the main organisations involved. These are the GATT/World Trade Organisation, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the OECD.

The commission took a number of decisions on sectoral issues, endorsed action programme established by key U.N. bodies, identified issues requiring further attention by governments and international organisations, agreed on perspectives of the CSD on factors to be taken into account in further work and nominated appropriate agencies within the U.N. system to carry out that work.

LETTERS

Caution is imperative

To the Editor:

THE ARTICLE "Legal experts study papers drawn up in Eilat negotiations (Jordan Times, Oct. 15)" grabbed my attention.

We are all familiar with the infamous word "the", which changed history by not showing up in front of "Arab lands" to be withdrawing from by Israel, according to a United Nations resolution after the 1967 war.

So we all know the impact of just one three letter word, and I expect that the text of a peace treaty will be a complex document with a lot of issues to be addressed; and since that the majority of us are not privy to the mechanics which lead to such a historical document, and with all due respect to our negotiators and legal experts who are scrutinising these documents, we give a word of caution to be extra vigilant in their scrutiny so as not to slip into a situation of immense consequences.

It is essential that such careful scrutiny be applied to every text in Arabic, English, Hebrew, or any other language used.

And since we are not going to be the judges if a dispute occurs in the future, it is not enough to just satisfy ourselves in these matters; it may be prudent that the services of qualified international and independent consultants be employed to review these documents to detect any loopholes and rectify them before signing.

Thank you.

Emile Rihani,
Amman

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Speakership race narrows down

(Continued from page 1)

changed" as far as his decision to contest the elections as a result of Mr. Masri's decision to seek a new term as House speaker.

He said he feels he has fulfilled all his obligations towards Mr. Masri as "a friend and as a colleague" before declaring his candidacy, noting he decided to run after Mr. Masri said he would not.

As late as last week, he said, Mr. Masri had confirmed to him he was not going to run.

"I take a stand and I commit myself to it. I will not disappoint the people who supported me and I will continue to work to win the confidence of others," Mr. Srour told the Jordan Times.

"In fighting elections," he said, "what matters is not losing elections but losing the stands and the confidence of others in the heat of the battle."

One deputy told the Jordan Times that the image of Mr. Masri among many deputies "has been shaken due to his hesitancy and inability to take a decisive decision."

He also questioned the motives behind the Islamists' support for him in light of their announced decision that they will not vote for a candidate who supports the peace process with Israel.

Mr. Mansour said, however, that the IAF had a number of objectives and it would vote for the candidates whom it sees close to these goals, noting that the IAF and a limited number of other deputies have an ideological stand against the talks.

While one deputy from the Democratic Coalition said

Mr. Masri has lost a lot of political capital by basing his candidacy on the support of Islamists who made a tactical decision to support him to prove themselves as the swing voters, others say Mr. Masri's reversal of decision was a natural response to the wish of many deputies and will not affect his standing in the House.

Mr. Masri was not available for comment on accusations that his counting on the support of the Islamists who do not see eye to eye with him on a number of issues would weaken him politically.

Deputies said the chances of Mr. Srour were as good as those of Mr. Masri, noting that the Northern Bedouin deputy could count on the support of the majority of the members of his bloc, the 10-member National Bloc and the National Action Front which is headed by Deputy Abdul Hadi Majali and includes about 20 members.

Parliamentary sources said Mr. Srour would also be supported by Deputy Mohammed Abu Oleim who withdrew his candidacy in his favour as well as the four-member Brotherhood bloc.

Influential centrist Deputy Abdul Karim Kabariti said: "We will support the candidate whose stands are in harmony with his declared alliances and who has a cause, not the one who can be used by others."

"I made a commitment in front of my colleagues to contest the elections. They support me and they will not change their positions," said Mr. Srour.

Gazans stage violent protest

(Continued from page 1)

Strip and soldiers withdrew several hundred metres towards the Jewish settlement of Netzarim.

Palestinian police dispersed the students without casualties.

Asked about the decision not to confront the students, Israeli Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur told Israel Radio: "We want the Palestinian authority — that means (Yasser) Arafat — to take care of this."

The scene along the road afterwards recalled the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation. Large stones were strewn across the road as small fires burned.

About 100 Israeli soldiers stood by jeeps on the road to the settlement. Dozens more patrolled its perimeter fence and a helicopter hovered overhead.

"It was difficult but we succeeded," said an officer of the Palestinians' liaison committee with the Israeli army.

"The whole thing is over and luckily without casualties."

In Gaza City, Palestinian police with riot shields stood at either end of the road to

Mr. Arafat's office. The atmosphere in Gaza was still tense, with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Hamas supporters openly criticising each other.

"There is no contact between the two sides at any level," said Mahmoud Zohar, a spokesman for Hamas in Gaza.

"Since it began, the authority has been under Israel's wing but this was on paper. Now it has become a working fact. In the past week Hamas had a stunning success and the authority had a stunning failure," he said.

Hamas supporters consider the kidnapping operation has strengthened their movement.

They see last-minute contacts between Israel and the authority before the rescue bid on Friday as establishing a precedent whereby the Israeli government might negotiate with Hamas, albeit through intermediaries.

PLO officials say Mr. Arafat is reluctant to give in to Hamas by releasing its supporters while the group is staging public protests.

Self-rule talks resume tomorrow

(Continued from page 1)

day leaving the hostage, an army captain and three kidnappers dead.

The cabinet also decided to give soldiers free bus tickets. The hostage was kidnapped as he tried to hitch a lift outside Tel Aviv last Sunday.

Mr. Rabin was quoted as telling the weekly cabinet session Sunday that "negotiations never ended," with the Palestinians.

Mr. Rabin said he had simply called the Israeli negotiating chief, Danny Rothchild, back for consultations, army radio said.

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein told the radio that the negotiations would be "part and parcel of our security demands," referring to Israel's demands that the PLO continue its crackdown against Hamas which opposes the peace accord.

The negotiations are over broadening a form of self-rule granted the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho in May, as part of the Israel-PLO peace agreement which Palestinians see as a first step towards achieving statehood in the West Bank and Gaza.

Tourist Minister Uzi Baram told Israel radio: "Yasser Arafat is our only partner and we have to make him stronger."

"He received the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday with Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres as a reward for his courageous decision to reach an agreement with Israel," said the Labour Party dove.

He attacked unnamed party members for "playing into the hands of the right-wing"

by calling into question the negotiations with the PLO.

The Likud opposition party backed Mr. Rabin's decision to launch the assault on the kidnappers' West Bank hideout.

Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu tempered his support by telling Mr. Rabin to call off the negotiations on the spread of autonomy to the West Bank and Palestinian elections.

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni of the left-wing Meretz party, told the radio a majority of ministers wanted the Cairo talks to start as soon as possible.

She also criticised Mr. Rabin for deciding the assault alone without any consultations, even with his inner cabinet.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was among those in favour of an early return to the negotiating table.

"Arafat acted properly by ordering the Palestinian police to carry out a major search operation to find the soldiers and the Hamas kidnappers," Mr. Peres told the Haaretz newspaper.

But he added: "We have to wage war on terrorism and carry on with the peace process at the same time."

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin stressed: "You could not hand Hamas a better gift than to refuse to resume the talks."

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid lined up behind Mr. Rabin. He urged an in-depth review of measures taken by the PNA against Hamas before deciding when to return to the negotiations in Cairo.

Future of devastated Haiti hangs on one man



Haiti's President Jean-Bertrand Aristide (right) looks at Port-au-Prince from the window of the airplane which brought him back from his three-year exile in the U.S. Saturday. At left is U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher (AFP photo)

By Anthony Bonville
Reuter

PORT-AU-PRINCE — The world that watched Jean-Bertrand Aristide's joyful return to Haiti was now watching to see if the diminutive priest can live up to the huge hopes that have been placed in him.

Millions of poor Haitians who see Mr. Aristide as the end to years of misery have placed their main hope for the future of the Caribbean country on the exiled president restored to power with U.S. backing on Saturday.

But Mr. Aristide faces a task that would dwarf any one less determined than he as he struggles to pacify a volatile population and make visible progress in

eradicating hunger, disease and illiteracy.

Three years of corrupt military rule have further devastated a country that was already the poorest in the Western hemisphere, leaving Mr. Aristide little to build on as he moves to meet his people's expectations of food and jobs.

U.S.-led trade sanctions aimed at forcing Haiti's military leaders from power have intensified the country's grinding poverty. Tens of thousands of people have been thrown out of work, peasants contributing to the country's biggest environmental problem have stripped hillsides of trees to make charcoal and millions have gone without medical care as clinics and hospitals closed.

In a country where education is available only to those with money, only about two in 10 Haitians can read and write and one out of seven relies on international food handouts to stay alive.

The international community is responding with an emergency plan to pump millions of dollars into Haiti's ravaged economy to help the troubled Caribbean country get quickly back on its feet and avert unrest.

Mr. Aristide can expect \$1 billion in international aid to flow into Haiti over the next five years to help feed the population, build schools and hospitals and revive a moribund economy.

"They spent too much

time killing people and not enough renewing agriculture," said Mr. Aristide adviser Michael Levy of Haiti's military leaders.

"The physical state they left the ministries in is symbolic of the destruction that has been wreaked upon Haiti since the coup."

He said the new government was starting from nothing and had a "tremendous challenge" to recover state finances ruined by corruption and provide water and food to the population.

The international community that pressured the military to relinquish power for three years has come to Mr. Aristide's aid by immediately lifting economic embargos that paralysed Haiti's economy and shut

down its industries.

In an immediate shot in the arm, U.N. sanctions were ending one minute after midnight on Saturday.

But politically, the popular priest who is generally idolised by Haiti's poor masses and hated by many of the rich elite has little organised backing remaining because many of his activists have either been killed or sent into hiding or exile in a systematic campaign by the military regime to stamp out pro-Aristide support.

Institutions such as the army and police will need major overhauls to weed out those responsible for human rights abuses since the military coup that toppled Mr. Aristide in 1991.

The Roman Catholic

priest appealed for national reconciliation on arrival, hoping to cool the thirst for revenge among Haitian terrified by the military that could lead to continued violence.

In addition, many Haitians fear that paramilitary groups remain well armed and have just hidden their guns to avoid confiscation by U.S. troops.

"We trust all our problems will be resolved with President Aristide," said Michael Kency in Cite Soleil, Port-au-Prince's most wretched slum.

"Everyone here thinks that there will be work and all will improve," added the 22-year-old man who never had a job. "But Aristide is just a leader."

U.S. 'will not wait' for U.N.

(Continued from page 1)

strong U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), which patrols the border demilitarised zone (DMZ), says his men never saw them.

"We have not seen a single Iraqi soldier," the Nepalese general said.

Mr. Christopher on Sunday also ruled out lifting sanctions against Iraq, saying he saw no reason to grant Baghdad any favours.

"There's no occasion for the easing of sanctions, there's no occasion for doing (Iraq) any favours at the present time," Mr. Christopher told NBC.

Russia joined in approving the Security Council Resolution shortly before midnight on Sunday after a standoff with the United States that lasted nearly all of Saturday.

The council's unity, however, cracked within seconds of the vote on the question of use of force. The United States said the resolution carried the use of force while Russia disagreed publicly, French envoys disagreed privately and Britain remained neutral.

The resolution does not make any explicit mention of the use of force or include such catch words as "all necessary means," although it was adopted under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter, which implies enforcement action.

The preamble of the document threatens "serious consequences" but diplomats said the vote would not have been unanimous if the council had clearly authorised force to bomb troop movements within Iraqi territory.

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright, delighted at the vote, said: "Let me assure this council that... my government will take all appropriate action if Iraq fails to comply with the demands of this resolution."

Asked if this meant the use of force, she said: "Of course absolutely."

But Russia's deputy ambassador, Vassili Sidorov, told the council: "I wish to stress in particular that the resolution does not contain provisions which could have served as a justification to conduct punitive strikes or using force."

Britain's ambassador, David Hannay, who is current council president, said it was "a matter for individual states to construe their position. I think it would be an unwise person who assumed that Iraq could do almost anything it wished without risk."

Ms. Albright was determined to push through the

vote before midnight Saturday. She succeeded at 11:33 p.m. EDT (0333 GMT).

Russia fought a rear-guard action to delay the vote until Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev arrived in New York Sunday to report on recent talks he held in Baghdad.

He obtained a promise by Iraq finally to recognise Kuwait's sovereignty and its new U.N. demarcated borders. In return, he offered to try to persuade the Security Council to ease sanctions which for the past four years have barred the sale of Iraqi oil.

Mr. Kozyrev, and Iraq Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz will take part in another Security Council meeting on the Iraqi situation scheduled for Monday.

In exchange for the Russian vote, the resolution welcomes all diplomatic and other efforts to resolve the crisis and notes that Iraq was ready to recognise Kuwait. But it also stresses that Baghdad has to do this in "full and formal constitutional procedures."

This means Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council and other top bodies must formally recognise Kuwait and its borders.

Mr. Kozyrev left Jeddah Sunday for U.N. headquarters in New York saying he hoped to patch up the rift with the United States.

"We are probably going to reach a common position," Mr. Kozyrev told reporters.

He was due to meet Monday in New York with Mr. Christopher.

The United States has rejected an Iraqi-Russian proposal in which Iraq would recognise Kuwait in exchange for Russian help in lifting the sanctions against Baghdad.

Mr. Kozyrev said he would "provide explanations to all the questions the United States might raise" about the Iraqi-Russian proposal.

He praised Iraq's offer to recognise Kuwait as "a step in the right direction with a view to guaranteeing the security and stability of Kuwait and the region."

Saudi King Fahd, who met with Mr. Kozyrev, said Iraq's recent troop build-up near the Kuwaiti border "should not be rewarded with a lifting of sanctions," according to the Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

France hailed the U.N. resolution restricting Iraqi military moves near Kuwait, urged Baghdad to recognise the emirate and denied there was rift between Paris and Washington.

Speaking at a news conference in the United Arab Emirates, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said formal Iraqi recognition of Kuwait's international boundaries was a pre-requisite for lifting the crippling sanctions against Iraq.

Mr. Juppe, who is touring Gulf states, said the Security Council might consider removing the oil embargo after a six-month trial period of verifying Iraq's cooperation with U.N. operations to monitor its weapons programmes.

"After receiving a report from the disarmament committee and the Security Council takes into account Iraq's recognition of Kuwait, it will be possible that the international body will discuss lifting the sanctions," he said.

"But the preliminary condition is obviously very clear. Iraq must recognise Kuwait and its international border without any preconditions or deception."

"I would like to express satisfaction with the latest Security Council resolution, which crowned all diplomatic efforts exerted to stave off a military confrontation in the region," Mr. Juppe said.

"It is a good resolution and it denounces without any ambiguity the recent Iraqi military movements near the Kuwaiti border. France has participated in preparing that resolution and this shows there is no crisis with the United States except in the minds of those who want a crisis."

Mr. Juppe said the resolution, number 949, provided a framework for allied action in the region but did not include any specific mechanism to deter Iraq from repeating its 1990 invasion.

Baghdad meanwhile dismissed Resolution 949, calling it a "face-saving" exercise by the United States.

An Iraqi official said on condition of anonymity "this resolution is face-saving for the United States after they showed their military might."

"It is a moderate resolution. It is a normal reaction after this crisis," another official said.

Radio Baghdad expressed satisfaction that the United Nations did not require Iraq to give the U.N. secretary general two weeks' advance notice of troop movements in the south, as originally demanded by the United States.

Baghdad residents, worn down by four years of crippling U.N. sanctions, said the resolution would not make much difference.

"One more resolution or less, what is that going to change? We will just have to tighten our belts a bit more," said a city centre shopkeeper.



Palestinian refugee Um Hussein (centre), hearing the news of the death of her daughter sleeps next to her friend after fainting upon (photo by Mariam Shahin)

Refugees on the sidewalk

By Mariam Shahin
Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

BEIRUT — On a sidewalk, three blocs away from the American University of Beirut, stand the headquarters for the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). For the past 46 years the U.N. agency has served both as symbol and reminder of the continuity of the Palestine refugees.

"One thousand dollars or five thousand dollars cannot secure alternative housing in a city where the price of cardboard to build a hut may cost me a thousand dollars," says Widad Hamad, 35, a former Tel-a-Zataar resident who is one of the women who now live on the pavement outside the UNRWA headquarters.

"We want a new camp not a thousand dollars we want a place to live and we want work permits — something no one is even discussing," says Ms. Hamad. "We live on the street and some people claim we are trouble-makers. They don't know that we suffer daily here; we get verbally assaulted and spat at by passers by. This is not a lazy existence; this is hell."

Um Hussein, 56, sits next to Widad Hamad. She like Widad, is a sidewalk squatter and a former Tel-a-Zataar resident. Her life story is a particularly sad one but somehow typical of a Palestine refugee's existence in Lebanon during the last two decades.

"I am from Safad," says Um Hussein. "I was born in Safad and in 1948 we fled the fighting and took refuge in Lebanon. We were never allowed to return to Safad."

"During the massacre at Tel-a-Zataar, I lost my husband, two sons and one daughter. One son and one daughter were injured. My son sells gum on the streets, he limps; my daughter received a head injury and became mentally retarded. She is in hospital," explains Um Hussein.

After Tel-a-Zataar we moved to Damour, my two sons worked with the resistance. One is in Denmark now. They relocated him but we are not allowed to join him," says Um Hussein of her son Omar, 32, who was given refugee status by the Danish government.

"In 1982 we moved to the Federal after life in Damour was no longer possible because of the fighting there."

"In August we were evicted and now we live on the streets." During the interview an ambulance arrives with bad news for Um Hussein, her hospitalised daughter, Lamia, 30, has died. Hit by a bullet in the head in 1976, Lamia has suffered from brain injury since then and was in and out of hospitals.

Um Hussein screams and then faints on the sidewalk. A young man, who is part of the squatter community, begins to talk of bringing Lamia's body out of the hospital. "She is there illegally because we, as refugees, are not supposed to have access to public hospitals unless we pay," says Fathi Musa. "We can't pay so we will not be able to wash her body in the hospital morgue as is Muslim custom. We will bring her here to the sidewalk and wash her body here," Fathi decides.

Lamia will be buried in the martyrs cemetery along with thousands of other victims of war and exile.

"During the massacre at Tel-a-Zataar, I lost my husband, two sons and one daughter. One son and one daughter were injured. My son sells gum on the streets, he limps; my daughter received a head injury and became mentally retarded. She is in hospital," explains Um Hussein.

China '95 reform target: Wheezing state industry

BEIJING (R) — China said Sunday that its thousands of wheezing state factories would be the main target of economic reform in 1995 and laid out plans to build a modern capitalist-style enterprise system.

"China will shift its focus of reform to state-owned enterprises next year, with the aim to establish a modern enterprise system," State Councillor Li Tieying announced.

"Bold experiments are necessary to deepen reforms in line with urban development strategies and practical issues in local economies," the People's Daily quoted Mr. Li as saying.

Mr. Li, a member of the ruling Communist Party Politburo who oversees economic restructuring, was quoted by the official People's Daily in the northwest as bemoaning industry's state ideas and lack of competition.

"We must be armed with fresh ideas for development and create new systems in reform," Mr. Li said.

"Advantage in a good system comes first in competition."

Thousands of loss-making state plants nationwide are under orders to turn themselves around or face bankruptcy, but Beijing has held off on widespread liquidations for fear of unrest if millions of workers are

thrown out of jobs.

Yet such factories, which grind out products no one wants, continue to be the leading cause of China's budget deficits, soaking up billions of dollars in subsidies and state loans that rarely are repaid.

Mr. Li's presence in Xian drove home Beijing's strategy of growing industry by exploiting resources in the vast, less populated west rather than pouring new investment into the eastern coastal province, where reform has taken hold.

But he said Beijing was looking for ways to "integrate public ownership with the market economy," indicating that officials are still nervous about losing their grip on state industry, a cornerstone of Communist Party power.

China's economic woes were further highlighted by a separate report in the China Daily, which said a year-old anti-inflationary crackdown on overheated state investment in fixed assets had fallen far short of targets.

In the first eight months of 1994, it said, investment by state institutions in fixed assets ballooned 44 per cent over the 1993 period to \$57.7 billion, with much of the growth on the east coast, according to the State Statistical Bureau.

Worse yet, the growth rate accelerated in July and August after months of slowing,

the bureau said.

Inflation has been raging at a year-on-year 27 per cent, far above this year's 10 per cent target, fuelled by 17 per cent industrial growth and 13 per cent overall economic growth.

Mr. Li said curbing state industrial losses meant striking a balance between public ownership and the market, a cautious approach reflecting Beijing's fear of losing control over state industry.

Many state factories have raised badly needed capital by issuing equity shares to the public, but Beijing has generally limited public shareholding to less than 50 per cent, thereby retaining state control.

The problem with state ownership, economists say, is that managers pay more attention to their state masters than to the market and to streamlining production, so losses mount.

The People's Daily account of Mr. Li's remarks gave only a vague outline of his "modern enterprise system" but said it involved "coordinated and comprehensive reforms" in social security and market circulation and a transformation of government functions.

China next year "will strive to further improve the system of macro-management in accordance with demands of economic development and structural readjustment," Mr. Li said.

U.N. chief warns of critical financial situation, proposes specific measures

NEW YORK (Agencies) — In his address before the General Assembly, the secretary-general outlined once again the seriousness of the current U.N. financial situation and called upon member states to work together at the highest political levels to restore the financial stability of the organisation, to enable it to perform the functions for which it was created.

He cited examples to outline the gravity of the situation:

— At the end of August, the U.N.'s debts included \$1 billion owed to 70 member states for their troop and equipment contribution to peacekeeping missions and \$400 million owed to vendors and suppliers.

— By the end of August, only 56 member states had paid their regular budget assessment in full, and 70 member states had not made any payment toward their 1994 regular budget assessment. In total, member states owed the U.N. \$3.2 billion in unpaid assessment to the peacekeeping and regular budgets.

In recent weeks, a number of member states have made substantial payments which have enabled the U.N. to

overcome this financial crisis, the secretary-general addressed two areas where improvements could be made: The cash reserves and the scale of assessments.

With regard to the U.N.'s depleted cash reserves, specific measures could be taken to strengthen the organisation's capital base, including:

— Improving the organisation's cash management system, concentrating its bank accounts.

— Shortening the time between approval of peacekeeping budgets and the sending out of assessment letters to member states.

— Charging member states interest on arrears to encourage a more positive cash flow.

— Minimising the need for cash by accepting non-financial contributions (for example, equipment or personnel) as a set-off against member states' contributions, within a specific framework.

Taiwan's foreign exchange reserves to break \$100b

TAIPEI (AFP) — Taiwan's swelling foreign exchange reserves are expected to reach the \$100 billion mark by the end of this year due to increased exports and higher accrued interest, officials said Sunday.

August's reserve figure hit an all-time high of \$90.9 billion, making it the second highest in the world, next only to Japan, according to statistics released by the central bank here.

The amount represented an increase of \$593 million over the previous month, bank officials said.

Combined with the gold reserves held by the central bank in various banks overseas, the foreign exchange reserves held by Taiwan amount to \$96.82 billion, they said.

Gold reserves in August totalled 13,565 million troy ounces valued at \$5,839 billion.

September's figures are expected to rise further following August's \$7.6 billion of exports, an 18.2 per cent increase over the same period last year, and the highest in two years.

On the back of export growth and global economic revival plus a gain of some \$550 million worth of month-

ly interest, it would not be difficult for Taiwan's holdings to pass \$100 billion at the end of this year, the officials said.

But trade officials here have also expressed concern over the foreign exchange increases, saying that keeping money without effectively investing it will only waste the country's capital.

Also, it will increase the chances of other countries asking for financial aid from Taiwan, or refusing to repay debts, the officials said.

They said reasonable foreign exchange holdings for a country should be somewhere around three to six months of its total trade expenditure, which for Taiwan is around \$40 billion.

Taiwan currently pays about \$7 billion for its monthly imports.

Taiwan to negotiate joint venture plan with Boeing

Taiwan is seeking to negotiate a joint venture deal with U.S. aircraft manufacturer Boeing to produce a 100-seater regional jet following the failure of a deal with British Aerospace, local press reports said Sunday.

Iraq raises value of dinar

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's central bank has raised the official value of the dinar, which it had fixed at 1,000 dinars to the dollar, to 1,200 dinars to the dollar.

Government-licensed moneychangers in Baghdad were offering 550 dinars for a dollar Sunday, down from 550 the previous day.

"It is the first time the government has lowered the exchange rate since it authorised us to officially change money," a dealer said.

But Baghdad traders said the market was still volatile with many customers preferring to wait and see if the flurry of diplomatic moves would bring Baghdad any closer to an easing of U.N. trade sanctions.

On the black market, traders said, the dinar was even firmer. "It is really strange. How come the government is offering more than the black market for the dollar?" one said.

Trading in hard currency outside official bureau is illegal and violators risk having a hand amputated if caught. Traders said the dollar fetched 650 dinars last week but it was close to 500 Sunday.

"Today, there is no black market. Those with dollars now prefer the official rate," one said.

another said. But owners of licensed shops said business was sluggish. "They (customers) just want to wait and see. The matter is not over yet," one said.

There are three rates for the dollar in Iraq. The government has not officially abandoned the pre-Gulf war rate of \$3.2 to one dinar.

But last year it permitted 39 companies in Baghdad to trade foreign currencies at rates decided by the central bank, which until now put the dinar's value well above the black market.

Before this month's showdown between Iraq and the United States in Gulf the dollar while official money changers were allowed to offer a maximum of 550.

Although it is unclear what will come next after a U.N. Security Council resolution barring deployment of Iraq's elite forces in the south, traders reported Sunday that food prices had fallen or at least remained steady.

"Sugar is now half its price 10 days ago," said one. But for ordinary people, hardest hit by U.N. trade sanctions imposed for Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, life was still difficult to bear.

Japan's lifetime employment system faces turning point

TOKYO (AFP) — As Japan looks for ways to cope with the economic slowdown, businessmen here are forced to accept that the good old days of a job guaranteed for life are coming to an end as the recession bites.

"A large number of my colleagues are realising that the lifetime employment system will be replaced by something like an ability-oriented one in the near future," said Hirokatsu Takuwa, working for the personnel division of an Osaka-based desk manufacturer.

"When we started the job five years ago, everybody still believed they would and could work for the same company for the rest of their life," Mr. Takuwa added. "But time has gradually changed that."

In a bid to tackle the worst recession in decades here, Japanese companies have resorted to cutting wages, promoting early retirement and squeezing recruitment.

Annual incomes of Japanese businessmen dropped for the first time in 45 years in 1993, down 0.6 per cent from the previous year to \$45,220.

The Tokyo Shoko Research said 1,675 listed companies cut some 139,000 jobs in the six months to March by encouraging workers to retire early and cutting back on recruitment.

Despite these efforts, the employment rate stood at three per cent in August, unchanged from the previous month, the highest level since 1987.

"The lifetime employment system must be broken in favour of a profit-oriented economy," said Hideyasu Nasu, a senior official for Sumitomo Corp. "It worked well in the 1970s and 1980s when companies needed many people to engage in mass production. But that era is over," said Mr. Nasu.

The fast economic growth in Japan since the war was largely due to the smooth relationship between managers and employees. Both enjoyed the lifetime employment system along with promotion and wage increases.

But the system allowed payrolls to continue to swell

even during the recession. Japan's current unemployment rates are still much envied by other Group of Seven industrialised nations, but economists note that the rates are higher by several percentage points if calculated by Western gauges.

Moreover, economists warn that Japanese unemployment rates may keep rising as firms, looking to establish new cheaper production units overseas, slash more jobs at home.

The Japan Research Institute forecasts that the unemployment rate will reach 6.4 per cent, the loss of 3.56 million jobs, by 2000 if Japanese companies continue shifting production bases abroad.

The private institute said recent rises of the yen would accelerate the shifting of Japanese factories overseas, boosting the ratio of overseas production from 6.4 per cent last year to about 10 per cent in 1998.

Many analysts agree, however, that unemployment may ease if the economic recovery is strong, enabling companies to put off scrapping the traditional jobs-for-life system.

But it is clear that sooner or later Japan will have to accept a drastic change in its employment system.

"It may be unavoidable to change the current system to some extent over the next decade," said Tatsushi Shino, an economist for Yamachi Research Institute. "If the rigid system remains unchanged, the Japanese economy might be inflexible and fail to adjust to change in the world economy."

The government has said the upward trend in unemployment is "cyclical," but admits that if the economic slowdown continues, there will be an acceleration in the movement towards "structural" unemployment in the white-collar sector.

Tokyo said to use imported rice in aiding countries

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan plans to use imported rice which Japanese consumers do not like, to help developing countries, a newspaper said Sunday. The policy, which could trigger protests from rice-exporting nations, was outlined by the agriculture, forestry and fisheries ministry to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Social Democratic Party and New Party Sakigake, the Asahi Shimbun said.

Under an agreement reached at the Uruguay Round of global trade negotiations sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Japan is to partially open its rice market to foreign products beginning next year. But many Japanese consumers have balked at buying foreign rice.

Some 400,000 tonnes of foreign rice will be imported annually by Japan beginning in April, with the volume doubling in six years.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY OCTOBER 17, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Forget that easy chair today and get out in the busy world of activity. There are lots of opportunities to get ahead under present conditions. Take care of any physical problem you are having in the P.M.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Discuss business affairs with your loved ones and you can solve the situation together. Adopt a different attitude with your family.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Listen to what business associates have to suggest to become more efficient. Contact that person with whom you have worked before.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be sensible in expenditures so that you do not jeopardise your present monetary position. Take tonight easy with the loved ones in your life.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Have more fun at recreations you enjoy and take in more sports. Join good friends. Do not spend too much money on the activities.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Some favour for a family tie can bring fine results. Do not lose your temper or there could be real trouble within your household.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Contact friends who can be of help to you. Plan the future more wisely. State your aims and desires to those who are close to you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Discuss affairs of business with a prominent person. Do your tasks efficiently. Do nothing which could get you into hot water with your mate.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be alert for a chance to gain personal desires. Get rid of anxieties at the correct sources. Control your temper from now on.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Meditate for a while, then follow your hunches which have proven correct. Have a quiet talk with your mate and come to a far better understanding.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Look to both friends and associates for assistance you need to gain your finest ambitions. Keep promises you have made to others.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get your tasks completed in such a manner that you get the OK from higher-ups. Entertaining should be done at a charming location.

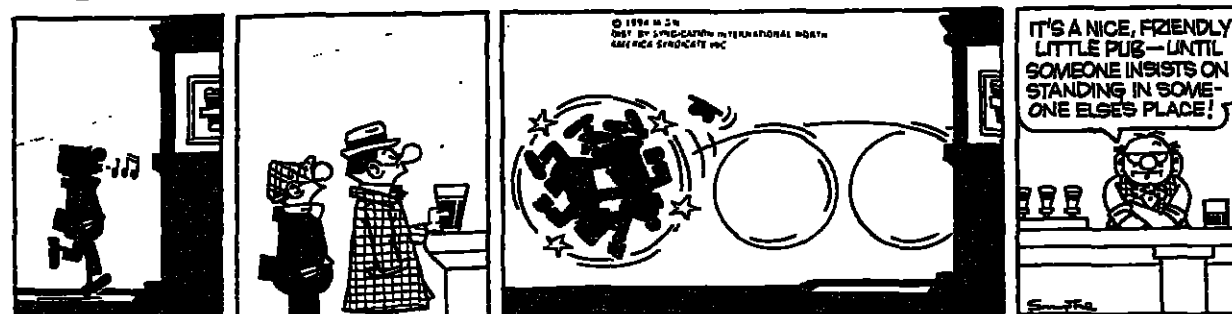
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Improve your talents so that you can become more successful through them. Try to please higher-ups. Make the evening a happy one for your mate.

Birthstone of October: Opal Tourmaline

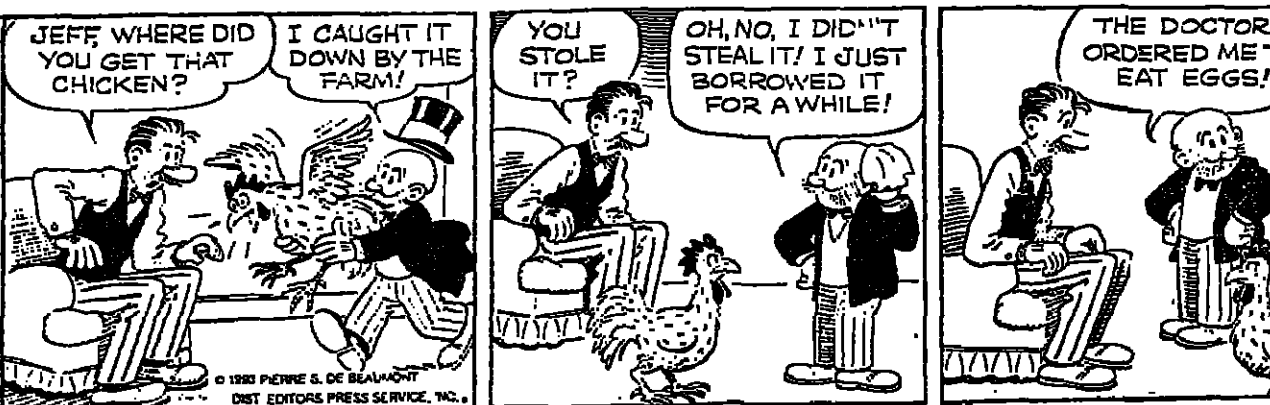
Peanuts



Andy Capp



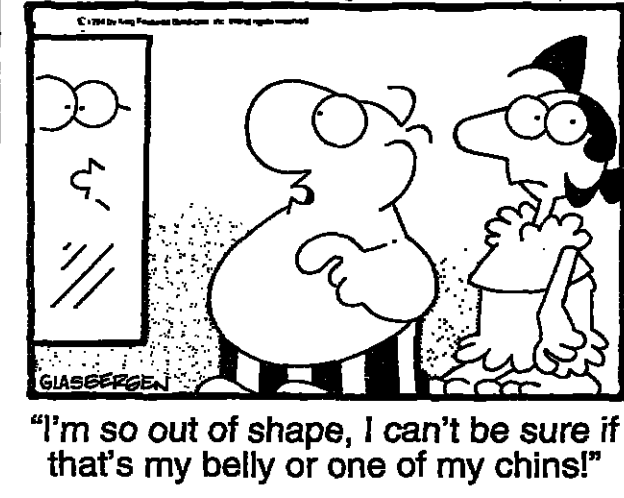
Mutt'n'Jeff



GREAT LOOKS START WITH

DAJANI'S
Gold & Gems Jewellers.
Amra Hotel: 6th Circle. Amman.
GARNET: Inspires love and devotion. Stimulates the blood flow and cleanses toxins from the body.

THE BETTER HALF.



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HOUTY

NUMOR

MODDO

ENTAIN

Answer here: MAKES A

Yesterday's Jumbles: AGING HELLO GENIUS PIRATE

Answer: When the "big one" got away it left the fisherman — REELING

THE Daily Crossword

by Virginia B. Hopewell



ACROSS

1 Author Ayn

5 Distinguished lowlands

10 In addition

14 Surname

15 Occurrence

16 "A hungry look"

17 Account entry

18 Rehearsal

19 Proscription

20 Guiding principle

22 Dodges

24 Bench

25 1052

26 Social status

28 Omelet

34 Magritte, e.g.

36 And others.

37 Spar

38 Faction

39 Fox breed

41 Yemen city

42 Garland

43 "Glorious"

44 Metrical foot

45 Increased time

46 Handic device

49 Compassion

51 Miss James

53 Symbol

54 Regular body

55 Gambling game

61 Accustom: var.

62 Colorless

64 In good shape

65 Greek province

66 Leslie Caron role

67 Obnoxious one

68 Literal translations

69 Style

DOWN

1 Stir up

3 Sundry

7 Singing voice

8 Denotation

9 Of the

11 household

12 Heart's goodness

13 Fly

16 Curving look

18 Albino: abbr.

19 Tricked

21 Musical group

22 Star in Aquila

23 Show the way

24 Yemo

25 Burden

26 Easier

27 Medieval instrument

28 TV on the phone

29 Impressive

30 Embarkment

31 Let up

32 Refined and

33 Dance

34 Gladly

35 Application

40 Ch-chi

41 Cornmeal dish

43 Ballet movement

45 Official records

47 Self-confidence

48 Hush-hush

52 Lock of hair

53 Newsie

54 Clayey earth

55 Vivacity

56 Wrestling

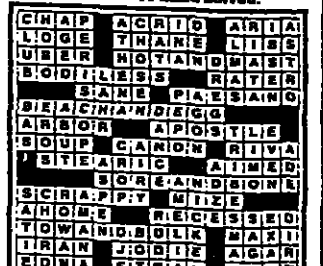
57 Buckle

58 A Logan

59 Means of transport

62 And not

Puzzle solved:



43 Ballet movement

45 Official records

47 Self-confidence

48 Hush-hush

52 Lock of hair

53 Newsie

54 Clayey earth

55 Vivacity

56 Wrestling

57 Buckle

58 A Logan

59 Means of transport

62 And not

China confirms sporting supremacy at conclusion of Hiroshima Games

HIROSHIMA (R) — The curtain came down on the 12th Asian Games Sunday after 15 days of Chinese domination, the return of Ma's family army and a refreshing lack of drug scandals.

"In the name of the Olympic Council of Asia... I declare the games closed," intoned OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah, bringing to an end the record gathering of 6,800 athletes and officials from 43 nations.

Amid lasers, fireworks, samurai warriors, the dousing of the games flame and a volcano erupting with doves of peace, the athletes bid farewell to the games which saw superpower China dominate with 137 gold medals, 92 silvers and 60 bronzes.

Nobody came even close — runner-up was South Korea with 63 golds and hosts Japan had to grin and bear it as they were relegated into third place again, with 59.

China's medal haul was considerably down on its 1990-games total of 183, due partly to the participation of five ex-Soviet republics for the first time, two placed fourth and fifth.

Kazakhstan mined 25 golds and Uzbekistan 10, signalling a fundamental change in Asia's sporting picture bound to be even more marked by

the time Asia's top athletes gather for the next games in Bangkok in 1998.

Looking to the future, Sheikh Ahmad said the size of the games would have to be restricted.

"There should be 25 or 26 sports maximum," he said during a news conference to express his delight over the games.

Humble in victory, China downplayed their domination and praised other nations for a general rise in standards at the games which saw 24 world records and 59 Asian marks broken.

"There were so many games records set I lost count," said Wei Jizhong, of China's National Olympic Committee.

"This means that the level of sports in Asia has developed and generally speaking has risen," he said.

China was robbed of a perfect end to their golden chase Sunday, losing both volleyball and soccer finals, the last medals to be awarded.

Unfancied Uzbekistan grabbed gold in the soccer with a 4-2 victory over players from China's new professional league, and Japan got some consolation from taking the volleyball title, coming back from two-set deficit to clinch victory.

In the final day of field and

track, China took four titles, including all three of the women's events, but a feud between supercoach Ma Junren and the Chinese sporting establishment tarnished the gloss of the on-track action.

China ended up with a tally of 22 athletics golds, 18 silvers and eight bronzes from 43 events. Only seven other nations managed to win a title.

Ma, whose stable of world-beating athletes took six golds, four silvers and two bronzes, traded public barbs with the Chinese Olympic Committee's Wei after Ou Yunkia took the 1,500 metres title in four minutes 12.48 seconds, well outside the world mark she set last year of 3:50.46.

Reacting to comments by Wei that he was money-crazy and overtrained his athletes, Ma said: "So what if we overtrain, we don't take his money."

Ma's comment appeared a clear swipe at sports policies of the central government in Beijing which has been trying in vain to bring the maverick, but highly successful, coach to heel.

Qatari athletes could look on happily as the games flag was lowered.

Mohammad Sulaiman, bronze medalist at the Bar-

celona Olympics, added the 1,500 men's title to the hat trick of golds in the shorter distances garnered by the tiny Gulf sheikhdom.

Qatar's Talal Mansoor was the star of the men's track events, winning the 100 metres sprint for the third time, taking the 200 metres

and then announcing his retirement.

Fellow Qatari soldier Ibrahim Ismail Muftah won the 400 metres, completing the Qatari golden haul.

The games were also declared practically free from the scourge of doping.

Final medals table

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
China	137	92	63	289
S. Korea	63	53	63	179
Japan	59	68	80	207
Kazakhstan	25	26	26	77
Uzbekistan	10	11	19	40
Iran	9	9	8	26
Chinese, Taipei	7	12	24	43
India	4	3	15	22
Malaysia	4	2	13	19
Qatar	4	1	5	10
Indonesia	3	12	11	26
Syria	3	3	8	13
Philippines	3	1	5	9
Kuwait	3	1	3	7
Thailand	1	11	13	25
S. Arabia	1	3	5	9
Turkmenistan	1	3	3	7
Mongolia	1	2	6	9
Vietnam	1	2	0	3
Singapore	1	1	5	7
Hong Kong	0	4	7	11
Pakistan	0	4	5	9
Kyrgyzstan	0	2	2	4
Jordan	0	1	3	4
UAE	0	1	1	2
Sri Lanka	0	1	1	2
Macau	0	1	1	2
Bangladesh	0	1	0	1
Brunei	0	0	2	2
Nepal	0	0	2	2
Tajikistan	0	0	2	2
Burma	0	0	2	2

(Extra medals were awarded in some events).



Photo above, Japan's Toshinari Takaoka raises his fist as he crosses the line to win the men's 5,000m final Sunday at the 12th Asian Games. Takaoka finished the race in 13min 38.37 secs, setting a new Asian record to take the gold medal. Below, Qatar's Ismail Doka is carried of the track by teammates Al Dosari (left) and Ismail Muftah along with officials after he was moved down by runners during the baton exchange in the third leg of the men's 4x400m relay Sunday. South Korea won the event (AFP photos)



Japan sports leaders call for funds after dismal medal haul

HIROSHIMA (AFP) — Japanese sports leaders reacted to the country's mediocre medal collection at the Asian Games by calling Sunday for a special lottery to fund athletes.

Japan finished third in the medal table, behind way out leaders China, but also distanced by regional rivals South Korea for the third successive games.

China got 137 golds, the Koreans 63 and the hosts, who spent 15 billion dollars preparing for the games, 59.

"We will seize this opportunity to step up our campaign for a sports lottery," said Yasutaka Matsudaira, head of the Japanese delegation.

There were virtually daily disappointments in the two week games. Japan lost the men's 4-400 metre relay, the final track event, for the first time since 1978 after a bungled baton change.

Only the Japanese men's volleyball team saved some national honour by rallying from two sets down to beat China for their first crown since 1982.

Japan had hoped to overtake South Korea and Matsudaira tried to put a brave face on the medals defeat. He described the gap between the Japanese and Koreans as "minimal."

A group of sports fanatic legislators have been pushing for a soccer lottery which could earn more than one billion dollars a year for the Japanese Olympic Committee.

Despite its economic superpower status, Japan spends little on its sporting elite. It does not even have a national athletic training centre.

"China and South Korea have national training centres. Considering the handicap, we have done fairly well," said Matsudaira.

Japan lost its Asian Games number-one spot at New De-

lihi in 1982 and the country was overtaken by South at Seoul in 1986. In Beijing in 1990, Japan's 38 gold medals paled before 183 for China and 54 for South Korea.

A judo team, beefed up by three world champions, spearheaded Japan's national hopes. Japan won eight titles in the sport it invented, including five for the men. South Korea won seven judo golds.

The Japanese sports of karate made its Asian Games debut with the host nation taking nine of the 13 golds. Japan also won the baseball title. But one of the bitterest ironies for organisers was that the climax to Japan's professional baseball season beat Asia's premier sporting event in the television ratings.

Officials laud drug-free games

HIROSHIMA (R) — The Asian Games received an almost perfectly clean bill of health Sunday when medical officials declared the event remarkably drug-free.

"The athletes have become aware our testing methods are very good, that is why no one is taking a chance," said Man Mohan Singh, member of the Olympic Council of Asia's (OCA) medical commission, which oversaw dope tests at the games.

Singh told Reuters that even the one positive test, returned by Thai soccer captain Kadaree Srisak, was for a stimulant.

The commission takes a much stricter view on performance-enhancing drugs such as steroids, Singh added.

He said the solitary positive test compared favourably

to the three athletes caught for drugs at the last games in Beijing in 1990.

"And when you see the magnitude of these games, you can see they were remarkably drug-free," he added.

The only athletes remaining to be tested are from the soccer final and eight track and field events Sunday, the final day of the games.

Their results will not be known for several days.

The biggest drug incident of the past two weeks took place thousands of miles away when China's woman discus champion, who had been entered for the games, tested positive for anabolic steroids.

She was immediately dropped from the Chinese team and did not come to Hiroshima.

Jordan's delegation to Asian Games returns

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian delegation which participated in the Asian Games in Hiroshima returned home early Sunday.

The delegation, which included 15 athletes and 10 administrators and coaches, was received at the Queen Alia International Airport by Secretary General of the Ministry of Youth Majed Quteishat, representatives of sports federations and fans raising banners and performing traditional dabkeh dances, to mainly welcome the taekwondo team which collected four medals at the games, thus placing Jordan 24th in the final medals standings.

Mohammad Al Zu'bi earned Jordan's first taekwondo medal when he won the silver in the flyweight class after losing to South Korea's Chin Seung-Tae.

Zu'bi, who was injured in the final, settled for second place and was unable to continue the fight.

Amman Fahed later won another silver after losing the middleweight final bout to Kuwait's Hameed Hassan.

Yousef Abu Zeid won the Kingdom a bronze in the lightweight category and Tawfiq Nuweisir won another in the heavyweight category.

Her Royal Highness Princess Haya represented the Kingdom in the equestrian competition at the games and managed to qualify to the finals, but unfortunately was unable to continue when she fell off the horse and was hospitalised for two hours, suffering bruises in her chest and right leg.

In the shooting competition, Khaled Nagaway set a new Jordanian record and came in 13th, which qualifies him to participate in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games.

In athletics, Awwad Sreys came in sixth in the 10,000 metres setting a new Jordanian record at 29 minutes 13 seconds.

Results in the karate competition were disappointing as Jordan's Na'el Oweimr was disqualified for mask abuse. When the referee

announced that his Taipei opponent was the winner of the match, Oweimr hurled his mask at the fans.

The referees committee decided to cancel his results and disqualify him from the competition in which he secured the fifth place.

Last Wednesday, Chairman of the Jordan Olympic Committee Muwaffaq Al Fawwaz said Jordan's participation in Hiroshima was its best ever in an Asian games.

"This was the best delegation that ever represented Jordan, whether in terms of preparation or results obtained," he told a press conference. Jordanian delegates also have been elected to the permanent committee of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

Princess Haya was elected to the OCA's athletes committee. Dr. Fawwaz was elected to the sports committee, and Issam Al Haj Hassan to the sports medicine committee.

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Schumacher celebrates F1 return by winning European Grand Prix

JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA, Spain (AFP) — Michael Schumacher celebrated his return to Formula One with a crushing victory over British rival Damon Hill in the European Grand Prix here Sunday.

Schumacher, at the wheel of the Benetton-Ford, finished 25sec clear of Hill in the Williams-Renault. Finn Mike Hakkinen came a distant third in the McLaren-Ford.

Suspended for the last two races, after ignoring a black flag at the British Grand Prix, Schumacher made an impressive return — dominating the race and increasing his lead in the world championship from one to five points.

Hiseighth win of the season, which follows a public bitter attack by the German on Hill, branding him a "little man" who was "never a number one driver," will also give Schumacher a clear psychological advantage for the last two events of the season.

Nigel Mansell's race was a write-off, ending in the gravel bed on lap 51 after a protracted early pit-stop had cost the 1992 world champion him more than half a minute, and

he had rejoined in 26th place. Instead of helping his teammate Hill, Mansell, who returned from IndyCar for the last three races of the season, ended up fighting just to try and reach the points — and his efforts cost him a one-way trip to the gravel.

Despite his subsequent defeat, Hill had made a dream start, tearing past Schumacher in pole position to hit the first bend in front.

The two men soon left the rest behind to fight their own private battle in relative peace and quiet.

After half a dozen laps, the pair were still only separated by a single second, but the yawning gap between the Englishman and third-placed Heinz Harald Frentzen was already a whopping 17sec.

Frentzen's Sauber Mercedes was a thorn in the side of the early pursuers — the German's car hogging the track and preventing any of the half a dozen backed up behind it from overtaking.

First Mansell tried and failed, then Rubens Barrichello nipped in front of the 41-year-old, but fared no better. Gerhard Berger, Eddie Irvine, Johnny Herbert and Hakkinen were all

meanwhile waiting in the wings.

Martin Brundle's grand prix ended after only seven laps when the Peugeot engine on his McLaren overheated and he was forced to retire.

Schumacher made his first pit-stop on lap 15 and a turning point in the race came just three laps later, when Hill came in for fuel and fresh tyres.

The Williams-Renault crew took only two seconds more than the Benetton mechanics had a few minutes earlier, but it was enough to cost Hill his lead — the Englishman watching in dismay as he headed down the exit lane and Schumacher's blue and green Benetton roared past.

After 20 laps, Schumacher had edged five seconds clear. By the 30-lap stage, when the German had successfully negotiated a stretch of traffic, that gap had more than doubled to 12sec.

The lead changed back briefly on the 33rd lap, when Schumacher made a second stop, only for Hill to return to the pits the following lap. The two trips cancelling each other out, Schumacher was more 13sec clear over Hill

with half of the race run.

Frentzen's teammate Andrea de Cesaris, who had blocked Schumacher earlier in the race and obliged the German to shove his way past, then kept Hill at bay for a couple of laps — costing the Englishman nearly 10sec.

With nearly two thirds of the race gone, it was already all over. Hill was almost half a minute adrift and only mechanical failure or a mishap was going to stop Schumacher from taking charge of the championship.

It didn't happen, and even after a third pit-stop, Schumacher still returned with a 15sec lead over Hill.

Further back, Hakkinen was scrapping with the Jordan Haris of Barrichello and Irvine for third place. Frentzen having eventually yielded for a pit stop.

The last podium place went to Hakkinen.

Mansell, who admitted being at fault when he spun out, said: "It was an interesting day, but I'm a bit disappointed." He said the car had not been the same after an early knock with Barrichello had damaged his front wing.

Ivanisevic downs Chang, takes Seiko Super title

TOKYO (R) — Goran Ivanisevic clinched his second title of the year and secured a place for the season-ending \$3 million world championships in Frankfurt when he powered aside 1989 French Open champion Michael Chang in the final of the Seiko Super Indoor Sunday.

The top seed from Croatia, who had never made it past the semifinal stage in his last three appearances here, was in devastating form against the sixth-seeded American, breaking him in the seventh game of the first set and third game in the final to win through 6-4 6-4 in 76 minutes.

World number nine Chang gave his many Japanese fans cause to cheer as he doggedly chased after every single ball and pounded in countless heavy first serves.

But Ivanisevic, who fell in the first round of the U.S. open and last week's Australian Indoor, unleashed his booming serve-and-volley game mixed with blistering cross-court winners and consistent return of serves to ultimately deny Chang his sixth title of the season.

"I didn't expect I'd be even close to winning this tournament. I don't know how I got my tennis together this week after falling at the U.S. Open and Australian Indoor. It's a miracle," Ivanisevic said.

Both players agreed the deciding factor in today's battle was Ivanisevic's ability to hammer returns from the back of the court.

"He was pretty solid off the ground. I thought he'd have missed a little more. If he's up a break and holding serve easily, he can really go for his shots — he hit winners off my first serve, which is a little bit frustrating," Chang said.

"I hit a lot of winners down the line, and my backhand was good. And I was changing the speed of the game —



Goran Ivanisevic

putting in slices — which he didn't like," the top seed said.

Ivanisevic has looked every bit like the world's number two player throughout the week at this million-dollar event played on a fast carpet surface.

He had little difficulty

seeing off a very in-form Australian Indoor champion Richard Krajicek in the quarterfinals, and two times Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg, who was looking for his third Seiko title, in the semifinal.

But maybe it's all in a song. The 23-year-old Croat was

asked how Guns N'Roses' "Welcome to the Jungle," which blared out over the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium the court, helped psyche him up for the final.

"A lot. This is my song now," the champion simply said.

McColgan repeats drug accusations

COVENTRY (R) — Former world 10,000 metres champion Liz McColgan repeated Sunday accusations that some of her British teammates were taking drugs but added the majority of the team were clean.

"There's a very, very small percentage, the handful are tarnishing us all," McColgan said Sunday after victory in the 10-km Great Midland Run, her first major race for 18 months.

Earlier British Sunday newspapers quoted McColgan saying "a lot more people" on the British team were taking drugs while the authorities turned blind eye.

"The public and the kids are assuming that to become

world champion I had to have taken a substance," McColgan said Sunday.

"A lot of athletes are scared to speak out. But it's time we stood up and shouted that we don't need drugs to be the best," McColgan said.

"I want everyone to know how many times I have been tested. Let's publicise all the negatives, not just the few positives."

"We should have more random, out-of-competition testing. Offenders should be banned for life — not just two or four years — and told 'don't come back.'"

"I would love blood testing to be brought in. That would wipe out the problem totally."

Huber beats Pierce at German tourney

FILDERSTADT, Germany (AFP) — German teenager Anke Huber beat defending champion Mary Pierce of France 6-4, 6-2 Sunday to win the women's \$400,000 tournament here.

The first set was won from the baseline, with the extra power and precision coming from the 19-year-old German. Huber immediately seized the initiative in the second, dictating the pace of the rallies at will, and often catching the Frenchwoman

off-guard with a sudden change of tempo.

Huber said: "At times, I was playing faster than Mary, and I even surprised myself."

Pierce, who hadn't dropped a set all tournament but committed a string of unforced errors in the final, said: "I've no excuses, Anke played very well."

Pierce fought off three match points before going down in an hour and twenty minutes.

Milan suffer setback

ROME (AFP) — Italian champions AC Milan fell 2-0 at bottom club Padova Sunday, and had Marcel Desailly sent off, as their fortunes took a further blow.

A loss to Inter Milan in the first leg of the Italian Cup second round Wednesday was the first setback. Then UEFA deducted two points from their European Champions League tally after Casino Salzburg keeper Otto Konrad was hit by a half-full plastic bottle during Milan's 3-0 win.

Parma lost 3-1 to Sampdoria, but still held on to the lead with AS Roma, who were to play at Torino in Sunday's late match, in second spot.

It was Padova's Alexei Lalas, the first ever American to play in the Serie A, who opened the scoring on 23 minutes. Then Desailly, who scored in Milan's European Cup final win over Barcelona in May, received his marching orders in the 36th minute for a second bookable offence.

English F.A. considers 'foreigners' crackdown

LONDON (AFP) — The future of Scottish, Welsh and Irish players with English clubs was thrown into doubt Sunday.

The English Football Association (F.A.) said it was considering extending UEFA rules on European club competitions to domestic matches, by regarding most players from other parts of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland as foreigners.

The UEFA rule permits only three foreigners in any European tie plus two "assimilated" players — those who may have been born outside England but have been with their current club for five years, like Manchester United's Ryan Giggs.

Such a change could transform the football face of the British Isles. English clubs' scouting networks stretch right across Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

Playing in England is consi-

dered a natural progression for promising players from those countries.

However, F.A. chief executive Graham Kelly has promised support for new regulations because he believes it would be a boost for the development of English players.

He said: "We believe there is a need to examine current regulations to determine if it would be advantageous to the English game and the production and progress of our own players to apply a similar classification to Europe."

Clubs are likely to resist changes fiercely, even though they would be introduced gradually over a three to five-year period.

Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson said: "It would effectively close the door to some great talents. Where would the game have been without people like George Best, Denis Law and Danny Blanchflower?"

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TALWAN HIRSHCH
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WHICH LOSER?

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ 9 8 2
♥ 7 3
♦ A K Q 4 2
♣ J 8 4
WEST
♠ 7 4 3
♥ K J 8 6 4
♦ 10 9 8 5 2
♣ 3 7 8
EAST
♠ 8 6
♥ 10 9 8 5 2
♦ 7 8
♣ Q 10

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 10
♥ A
♦ 10 9 8 6
♣ A 7 2
The bidding:
South West North East
1♣ Pass 2♣ Pass
3♣ Pass 4♣ Pass
4♣ Pass 5♣ Pass
Opening lead: Three of ♠.
Your mission: Mr. Phelps, should you choose to accept this

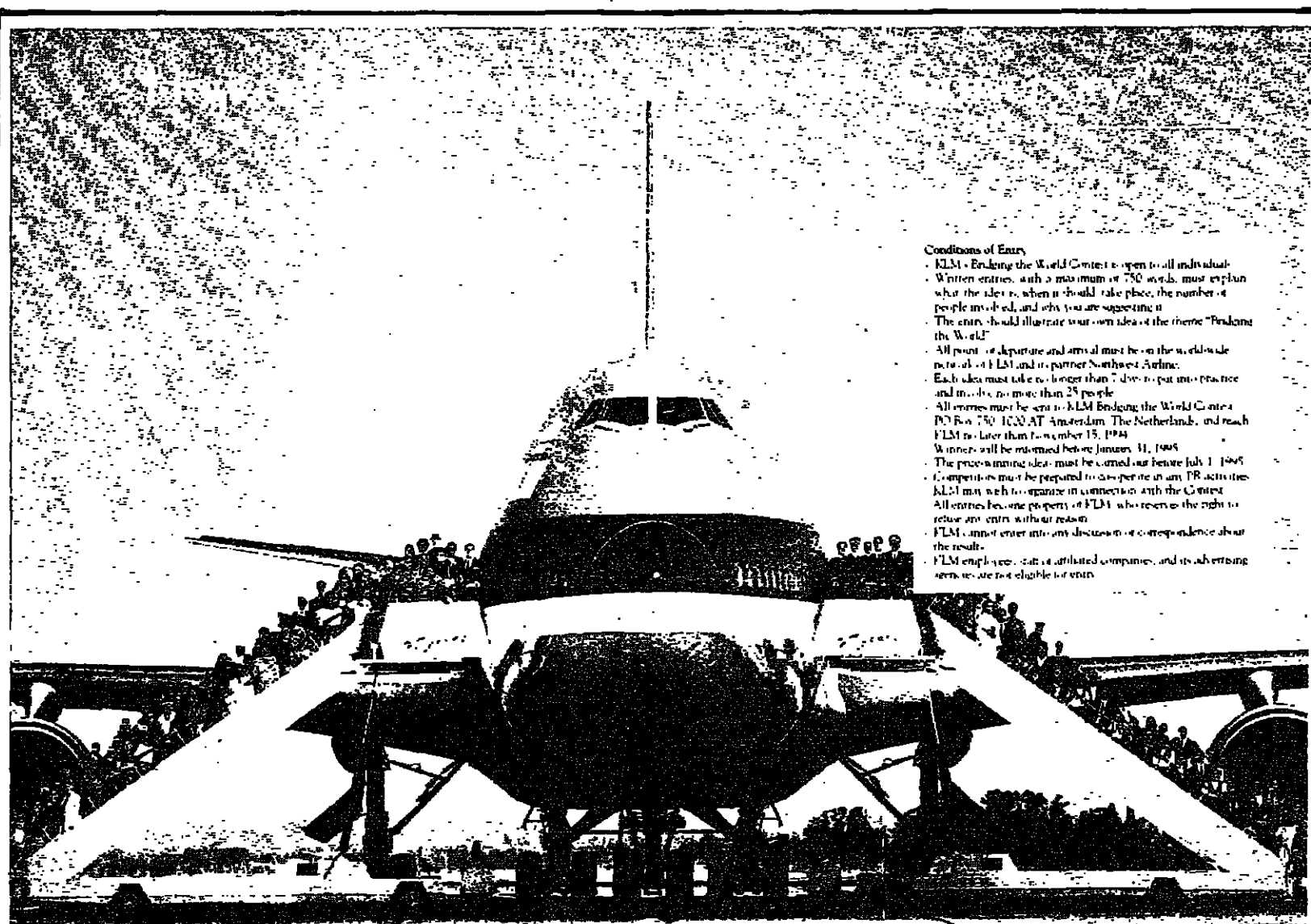
assignment is relatively simple. You must decide what trick South, as expert player, lost at six spades. As usual, should you or any of your team be caught in a faulty analysis this department will disavow any knowledge of your activities to avoid having to answer embarrassing questions about your bridge prowess.

The auction might not have been scientific, but it was quite accurate. If you can count the tricks available to declarer, there are 12-5 spades, five diamonds and the aces of hearts and clubs. However, there is, as so often happens, a fly in the ointment. Unless diamonds split evenly, and the opening lead makes that unlikely, the diamond suit is blocked and South will be able to collect only four diamond tricks. Can you resolve this dilemma?

First, win the opening lead and draw trumps in three or four rounds, whatever it takes. The key play is to then clear the ace of hearts. To check on whether diamonds are 2-2 cash another high diamond. As you suspected, the suit splits 3-1. What now?

If you concede a diamond you have simply reduced your tricks from 12 to 11 and the fulfilling trick is nowhere in sight. But see what happens if you lead a heart from dummy and, instead of ruffing, you discard the offending diamond from hand!

You can win any return, cross to dummy with your remaining diamond and cash the two long diamonds. Let's hope Mr. Phelps came up with the right solution. If not, he would do well to buy Bill Root's *How to Play a Bridge Hand*, from which this problem is taken.



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Yusra, Safiyah Al Omari and Mahmoud Hamidah... in Al Muhajer (Immigrant)	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Farouk Fishawi & Hanan Shawqi ... in: EITHER YOU LOVE OR LEAVE	Shows at 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD "1" SPEED Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" CRUSH Shows: 3:30, 5:15	Presents: Children's theatre "MARZOUK AND THE MAGIC LAMP" at 10 a.m. For reservation call tel: 618274-618275	Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"	Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam Daily at 8:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday.	

Danish minister holds Islam in high esteem, denounces distortionists

By Erik Rasmussen
Special to the Jordan Times

COPENHAGEN — "It is very important not to confuse fundamentalism with Islam. They are two different things. I am definitely not against Islam, but see it as a good and correct religion. In contrast, I would like fundamentalism to be stopped."

This is what the Danish vice-minister for foreign affairs, Henrik Woehlk, told the Jordan Times in advance of his opening speech at the conference on "Investment and Business Opportunities," to be convened today at the Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental, under the auspices of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hassan Bin Talal.

At this conference, 30 prominent Danish industrialists will be meeting with leading Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen, ministers and decision-makers, in order to discuss investment and joint ventures in Jordan and the Palestinian self-rule areas.

In most western countries, including Denmark, there is a growing fear of fundamentalism's advance. This could make Danish businessmen nervous about investing in Gaza and the West Bank in particular. However, in the view of the Danish vice-minister, investment and development are the best way to counter fundamentalism.

"Of course, fundamentalists and other groups can create problems, and experience shows that they do so," says Mr. Woehlk. "We know

that there will be setbacks where terror or other things will interrupt the political process. It would be strange if this were not the case in view of the experience we have had with the Middle East conflict over the years."

"But," he continues, "I think that the more investment and economic growth that can be created in the West Bank and Gaza, the greater the chance that such activities will cease. Hopefully, the Palestinians will feel that Denmark and the international community are beginning to show interest in them and taking their problems seriously."

Denmark has a long history of trade with the Middle East. Today's conference has been arranged by the Amman Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Danish Foreign Ministry and the Confederation of Danish Industries. Some of the largest among the Danish industrialists participating in the conference are APV Danish Turbines, Grundfos (water pumps), Leo Pharmaceutical Products, Ltd., and F.L. Smith & Co. (concrete plants).

In spite of the positive historical experience Denmark has in trading with the Middle East, the fundamentalist wave is creating anxiety. One of the things being discussed in Danish business circles is whether the current leadership of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) can stay in power, or whether fundamentalists might take

power in the self-rule areas via the upcoming elections or by other means.

"Yes, that fear exists and will continue to exist," says the Danish vice-minister, "because we see the fundamentalists advance in various places. It is a reality that the world must deal with. However, if we don't invest due to that fear, then we are actually facilitating the fundamentalist advance. It is a fact that fundamentalism flourishes best in conditions of poverty, just as we have seen in Egypt and Algeria."

"Islam is a religion I respect," emphasises Mr. Woehlk, "but if we are speaking of fundamentalism, it is a different story. Clearly, there is fear that groups such as Jihad or Hamas might take power, but that should not stop us. Countering fundamentalism means, first and foremost, fostering development."

One of the main topics on the agenda of the conference on "Investment and Business Opportunities" is international aid for reconstruction in the Palestinian self-rule areas, which have suffered from 27 years of Israeli occupation, neglect and exploitation. In line with this, a main speaker at the conference will be Ahmad Qouria (Abu Alaa). As the PNA's minister of economy, industry and trade, he will address the conference on the topic of "Investment Possibilities in the Palestinian Authority and



Henrik Woehlk

the Role of the Private Sector.

As representatives for the private sector in Denmark, the 30 Danish industrialists presumably are very interested in the PNA's view of the private sector. Mr. Woehlk stresses the importance of this country's efforts in this respect: "Today Gaza and the West Bank are extremely poor areas; if they don't receive any aid, they will be left to the influence of various forces. It is obvious that fundamentalists will find a base. For this reason, we cannot wait for a total Middle East peace solution before investing."

Mr. Woehlk expresses his country's wish for Syria to join the peace solution, but says, "Gaza, the West Bank and Jordan cannot wait for Syria. It is a question of investing in peace. The \$2.18 billion to be financed by the World Bank and the European Union are quite simply an effort to secure peace in the whole region. Denmark wants to join in this efforts," concludes the minister.

Erik Rasmussen is a Danish free-lance journalist and heads the All Round News Agency in Copenhagen.

Five including mastermind of Mahfouz attack shot dead

CAIRO (Agencies) — Police killed five suspected Islamic militants in raids across Egypt, including the alleged mastermind of a plot to kill Nobel Prize-winning writer Naguib Mahfouz, police said Sunday.

An Interior Ministry statement said seven other suspects were arrested in the Friday stabbing of Mr. Mahfouz. It said the attack was part of the campaign by Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah to destabilise Egypt through assassinations and explosions.

The four other suspected radicals were shot dead Saturday night in arrest raids in southern Egypt, part of the battle between police and extremists seeking to topple the government and install Islamic rule.

More than 430 people, mostly police and militants, have died in the extremists' 2½-year campaign of violence.

The alleged leader of the Mahfouz plot, Basem Mohammad Khalil Shaheen, was killed in a shootout with police Saturday night at a coffee shop in the Cairo suburb of Ain Shams, the ministry said.

Shaheen had been given a three-year prison sentence in absentia in the 1990 assassination of anti-extremist writer and secular thinker Farag Foda.

The ministry statement said the man who allegedly knifed Mr. Mahfouz was wounded in the gun battle, as was an innocent bystander.

The 83-year-old Mahfouz, winner of the 1988 Nobel Prize for literature, was stabbed in the neck several times

Friday by a man the writer thought was approaching him to shake hands.

The statement said the attempt to kill Mr. Mahfouz was the second in two days. It said two members of Shaheen's group, dressed as Gulf Arabs, went to Mr. Mahfouz's house Thursday to kill him, but he was not there.

The two would-be attackers had dressed in jellabas, loose-fitting robes worn by Arab men, and red and white khafirs scarves to pass as admirers of Mr. Mahfouz from the Gulf. One carried a bouquet of flowers, the ministry said.

His wife Atteyat Allah condemned the attackers saying "it is even more deceitful" to carry a bouquet to kill someone.

Police said the seven people arrested Sunday were members of Al Gamaa.

Police trying to find the getaway car used in the attack set up checkpoints on roads out of Cairo on Saturday and detained 42 people, the official daily Al Jumu'iyah reported Sunday.

Informed of the arrests, Mr. Mahfouz said Sunday from his hospital bed, "it's incredible, praise be to God."

"I did not think they would be arrested so fast," he added.

Two other attackers were arrested in Ain Shams and four other plotters were seized in raids elsewhere in Cairo, the statement said.

Mr. Mahfouz underwent surgery and has been pronounced in good condition considering his age. He suffers from diabetes and is early blind.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack. Mr. Mahfouz often criticises the government and Islamic hardliners in a weekly newspaper column, and is an outspoken supporter of Arab-Israeli peace.

Egyptians have expressed outrage over the attack against one of the country's most popular figures, a diminutive man with trademark dark glasses and a regular at Cairo cafes for chats about literature.

But authorities have been at odds with him for years. In 1989, militants threatened him for his book "The Children of Our District," in which he depicts God as a father and the prophets as his children. Authorities had banned the book.

Egyptian human rights groups said the leader of Al Gamaa, the blind Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, issued a death sentence against Mr. Mahfouz for blasphemy.

They also say the writer was threatened with death after criticising Iran for its death sentence against British author Salman Rushdie, whose book "The Satanic Verses" is considered by many Muslims as blasphemous.

However, officials of Al Azhar, Egypt's most sacred Sunni Muslim mosque, and the mufti, Sheikh Mohammad Sayed Tantawi, Egypt's highest religious figure, have condemned the attack against Mr. Mahfouz.

Some of Mr. Mahfouz's friends insist, his work was not the reason for his attack.

COLUMN 8

Publicity campaign begins for book by Pope

ROME (AP) — The Vatican and an Italian publishing house have begun beating the drums for an unusual literary event — the publication of a book by Pope John Paul II. With multimillion dollar contracts signed, publishing houses have a lot at stake. It has been timed to come out when Pope John Paul was visiting the United States, a trip cancelled because more time was deemed necessary for his recovery from hip-replacement surgery. Crossing The Threshold Of Hope, personal reflections by Pope John Paul on the papacy and the role of the church, will be presented Wednesday evening in Milan before going on sale in 20 languages the next day. Mondadori, the Pope's Italian publisher, announced that Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, one of the most influential officials at the Vatican, will help introduce the book, along with papal spokesman Joaquín Navarro, who signed the contract for the book. Panorama, a weekly newsmagazine in the Mondadori group, Saturday published the first chapter, John Paul's reflections on the relationship between the Pope and God. He repeats the phrase he used at his formal installation as Pontiff 16 years ago this month, "do not be afraid," underlining his call to Roman Catholics to give themselves to the mysteries of their faith. The English-language rights to the book were sold to Random House, reportedly for \$6 million. All royalties will go to a charity chosen by the Pope. Mondadori officials have said, Panorama said 20 million copies will be published of the book, 238 pages in the Italian version. It will sell in Italy for 25,000 lire, about \$16.

Sisters steal grandma's savings

BOSTON (AP) — After spending most of her life working two jobs to save \$26,500, Beatrice Jones had it all planned: "I wanted to go on a nice trip around the world." Ms. Jones' two teenage granddaughters got to the money first, however, authorities said. The girls allegedly stole the cash from a bedroom safe and took a lavish trip of their own — to Disney World. Along with a 13-year-old friend, they blew all but \$8,000 in Orlando, Fla., on an expensive hotel, restaurants and a three-day shopping spree, authorities said. "I'm very much upset with them. I do everything in the world for those kids, and to think they would do this to me, I can't believe it," Ms. Jones, 63, said Friday. One sister, 15, and the friend are charged with grand larceny. The other sister, 14, is charged with grand theft. They were not identified because of their age. The sisters' father, Deron Jones, said he wants the courts — not the family — to deal with them. "If they got away with taking \$26,500, when they were 14 and 15 years old, they may grow up to be bank robbers," he said. The girls remained in a juvenile detention centre in Orlando as authorities discussed how to bring them back to Massachusetts. Deron Jones, who lives with the girls and his mother in Boston, is reluctant to fly to Florida to get them. "If you had your life savings and it was blown in a three-day trip to Disney World, would you want to spend the rest of your life savings bringing the people back that blew it?" he asked. According to police, the sisters decided to run away last Saturday after their father hit the elder one with a belt. They broke into the safe and stole the money. After getting their friend, the girls went to the airport and bought tickets to Orlando on Northwest Airlines. Once there, they checked into the Embassy Suites Hotel near Disney World and paid cash in advance for a two-week stay. The girls were discovered Monday night when one of them got scared, called a friend and told her where they were. The friend in turn called their father, who contacted Florida authorities. Beatrice Jones said she has not spoken with the girls since her son told her what they did. "I really don't want to talk with them," she said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

France urges UAE, Iran to negotiate dispute

ABU DHABI (AFP) — French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé urged the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Iran on Sunday to hold direct negotiations to resolve a dispute over three strategic Gulf islands. Mr. Juppé, who is touring the Gulf, was replying to a question on France's position towards a UAE call for international arbitration on the dispute that has marred relations between Iran and its Gulf Arab neighbours. "I believe the UAE and Iran should enter a direct dialogue to solve their territorial dispute in accordance with international law," he said. "There should be no unilateral solution to the problem." The UAE and Iran held negotiations in Abu Dhabi in 1992 on the dispute over the islands of Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunbs. But they collapsed three days later when Iran refused to discuss the Tunbs. Gulf Arab states have strongly backed the UAE and urged Iran to accept international arbitration on the tiny islands, which control the entrance of the Gulf through which one-fifth of the world's oil exports pass.

Paper owned by Saddam's son defends CNN

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's most influential newspaper Babel attacked its government counterpart Al Jumu'iyah on Sunday for accusing Cable News Network (CNN) of being a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) underdog. "We were surprised yesterday with an article in the newspaper Al Jumu'iyah branding all CNN employees CIA agents," the newspaper published by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, said in a front-page article. It said what Al Jumu'iyah had published was not "permissible." Al Jumu'iyah accused the network on Saturday of bias in reporting the latest crisis in the Gulf. It said: "Once again the reality of American television networks, particularly CNN was exposed. They are nothing but a specialised apparatus under the supervision of the Central Intelligence Agency." Babel said a CNN correspondent was the target of a hostile campaign from the U.S. administration during the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait for reports reflecting the viewpoints of the Iraqi government and people. It did not name the reporter.

Iran has highest number of road accidents

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has the highest number of road accidents in the world even though there are only three million cars in circulation, Transport Minister Akbar Torkan said Sunday. Mr. Torkan told the official news agency IRNA that there were 37,000 serious accidents a year and about 120 accidents per 10,000 vehicles, 10 times the average in other parts of the world. He did not give a figure for the number of people who die each year on the roads, but other sources have put the number at 2,000. The minister blamed careless driving, faulty cars and dangerous roads as the main causes of accidents in Iran. Most cars on the roads are about 14 years old and drivers are often satisfied with only a bare minimum of repairs. Mr. Torkan called for stricter penalties for violating highway rules.

Iran accuses U.S. of causing death of deputy

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian leaders and the press have accused the United States of intentionally causing the death by cancer of a member of Iranian parliament. Hussein Shahrudi, chairman of parliament's economic and finance subcommittee and an influential clergyman, died last week in a hospital in London at the age of 44. He was refused entry to the United States when he arrived at Washington D.C. airport in April 1993 along with other members of an Iranian delegation to attend a joint meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. He said later that he was arrested and suffered a 30-hour ordeal which included "harassment, humiliation and psychologically damaging" treatment at the hands of U.S. immigration officers. In a message of condolences, Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Shahrudi had fallen ill after returning from the United States. Iran has been more direct with some suggesting that Shahrudi's "suspicious" death was caused by the "trauma he suffered" during his detention. The conservative daily Resalat accused the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of injecting "cancer-causing" agents into the clergyman's body. "Shahrudi has been a victim of the criminal aims of the United States. No doubt, he has been martyred through the injection of a cancer-causing substance by the CIA," it said. The paper called on the government to pursue the case "in order to show the ugly face" of the United States to the world.

Experts review shortfalls and gains of services for disabled women, family role

AMMAN (J.T.) — The U.N. Economic Commission for Western Asia's (ESCWA) regional seminar on the role of the family in integrating disabled women into society opened Sunday with two addresses underlining deficiencies as well as achievements in services that cater for disabled women in the region.

Her Royal Highness Princess Majda Ra'd Ben Zeid asked what the family can do to integrate disabled female children first into their families and subsequently as women into the larger environment of society.

In support ESCWA Deputy Executive Director Thoraya Obaid said that disability affects women and girls more seriously not only when they are themselves disabled but also as primary caretakers of disabled family members, namely as mothers or wives of disabled individuals.

But Dr. Thoraya noted the achievements, including an increase in social action by private sector and non-governmental groups, particularly women's groups, and also an increase in public awareness of the capabilities and the needs of disabled persons at the regional level.

The three-day seminar, which is being held at the Royal Cultural Centre, will end tomorrow.

The seminar aims at providing a forum for disabled women and experts to assess the nature and extent of social integration of Arab disabled women and to draw up action-oriented guidelines for promoting their integration into society. Included in the seminar will be substantive presentations, discussions

and demonstrations in the form of plenary and working group sessions covering the following topics:

— The extent and nature of the problem of disabled women and children in the ESCWA region, with particular emphasis on their socio-economic characteristics and the level of their social integration.

— Childhood disability and the role of the family in terms of prevention, early intervention and rehabilitation.

— The role of grass-roots non-governmental organisations in community-based rehabilitation.

Seminar participants include disabled women and men, families of disabled women, regional and international experts on the issue, representatives of major NGOs in the region, and United Nations Interagency Task Force members.

The seminar is being held in fulfilment of Economic and Social Council Resolution 1991/21 on disabled women, which recommended that focal points in the United Nations system for the advancement of women and disability issues (including ESCWA and UNICEF) cooperate more closely in their efforts to give continuing attention to issues involving women with disabilities.

Side events to demonstrate disabled women's capabilities and creativity will also take place during the three-day seminar. These include a concert by Jordanian Blind Girl Musicians, an exhibit of artistic work by disabled persons, and a charity bazaar organised by Jordanian NGOs for disabled persons.

Awareness of value of water should be part of education, workshop hears

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Appreciation of the value of water, a scarcity in the country, should be integrated into the school curricula and impressed upon children at an early age. This was one of the focal points of a ten-day workshop that opened here Sunday.

Workshop, entitled "Increased Awareness of Water in Jordan", is coorganised by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The plenary session addresses, given by RSCN Education Committee President Abia Ayoub, Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh and USAID Director Tom Oliver, concentrated on the importance of public awareness of environmental and water issues through education.

Ms. Ayoub said that while "environmental catastrophes occur every day, and industrialisation has contributed to the deterioration of the environment creating a universal problem, Jordan's biggest problem is the scarcity of water."

She added that this problem was not confined to the Kingdom, but burdens neighbouring countries as well.

Mr. Rawabdeh stressed the need for worldwide collaboration to overcome political border demarcations to enable the problems of water and the environment to be confronted. "Otherwise, the ship will sink," he said.

Mr. Oliver spoke of joint RSCN/USAID efforts on water conservation issues, involving a school club programme and the distribution of publications to raise awareness.

"We are looking for creative ways to reach students," he said.

Secretary General of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation Mohammed Bani Hani, who delivered an introductory lecture "water issues in Jordan and the importance of awareness programmes," told the Jordan Times that this was "the first time officials have tried to bridge water problem via the public."

He emphasised the significance of using voluntary organisations in spreading awareness.

"The clubs are located in most areas of Jordan, reaching out further afield than the Ministry of Water. They try to convince people (of the gravity of the water problem), as opposed to the ministry which issues instructions. Linkage between these clubs and public activities, like schools, women's associations, youth clubs and mosque and church preachers to spread information, eases the ministry's task."

"The voluntary nature of the clubs means that the success of the project is dependent on choice. Also, they feel the importance of the project which will guarantee its success," said Dr. Beni Hani.

"People do not attach the necessary interest or attention to the problem of water. No-one is aware of the gap between supply and demand until they have to face it. This awareness drive is to preempt that occurring," he added.

The RSCN workshop is the second stage of a three-part project financed by USAID and advised by Mona Jerisat and Mona Habib of the Washington-based Green Commission, a sub-agency of USAID. RSCN official Khalud Tubaishat told the Jordan Times.

The first stage included surveys involving the public;

the data collected displayed widespread unawareness of the importance of water conservation, she said.

As a result, the second phase "aims to deepen understanding of the problem, to increase the role of the individual and to stress the importance of participation in solving the problem," Ms. Tubaishat added.

She said that the workshop's seminars would cover water, sources, quality and uses, awareness and rationalisation of consumption, social and economic impact, laws, regulations and water sector institutions.

The third part will include eight workshops to be held in various districts of the Kingdom to train RSCN club supervisors in the use of educational material and activities directly related to the environment, she explained.

According to official sources, reasons for the Kingdom's lack of water are numerous.

Over 91 per cent of the country's land mass is classified as desert or semi-arid land;

the sharing of water sources with neighbouring countries, Iraq, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Syria, is regarded to be on unfavourable terms for Jordan.

The population growth rate of 3.6 per cent is one of the fastest in the Middle East; and

Despite having one of the lowest water consumption rates in the world, approximately 198 cubic metres per capita annually, existing supplies cannot sustain current consumption trends.

The rest of the workshop will be held daily, excepting Friday, starting at 8.30 a.m. at the RSCN headquarters in the Jubelha area until Oct. 25. The workshop is open to the public.

Somaliland airport seized by troops — president

NAIROBI (R) — The president of self-declared Somaliland republic said his troops seized control of Hargeisa airport on Sunday and were chasing clan militiamen towards the border with Ethiopia.

Aid officials said 13 foreign aid workers were flown from Hargeisa on Sunday to the Red Sea state of Djibouti as a protective measure after sporadic shelling of the city.

"We took the airport at 10 a.m. (0700 GMT). Our troops have cleaned it out and it is now completely in our hands," President Mohammad Ibrahim Egal told Reuters by telephone from Hargeisa.

"The operation to take the airport started at 7.30 a.m. (0430 GMT) and by nine (0600 GMT) we had them on the run."

"The republic of Somaliland" in the northeast was declared in May 1991 but has failed to win international recognition. The fighting on Saturday and Sunday was the worst there in months.

Clan militiamen had allowed Hargeisa airport to operate for the past year but exacted "taxes" from arriving flights until Mr. Egal ordered his troops to surround it more than a month ago.

Mr. Egal said he ordered his forces to attack militiamen holding the airport for

the past year after rebels attacked government troops on the road to Berbera on Saturday and one militia commander was killed and four soldiers wounded.

He said a woman and a family of three civilians including a child were killed and several people were wounded on Saturday when militia gunners dug in at the airport shelled Hargeisa.

Aid workers said it also came under sporadic shelling on Sunday morning but the city was calm and the government appeared to have the upper hand in fighting for the airport.

Asked about casualties in the assault he ordered, Mr. Egal said: "Fortunately there are not many, if any. They ran away but took the technicals (batteries) with them so we still have to disarm them."

"They are now heading for the border with Ethiopia and we are chasing them and will get them. This has removed the last threat in our side and people in Hargeisa are absolutely jubilant," he added.

Mr. Egal said 300 rebels controlling the airport for the past year had refused to surrender it to government forces and he believed there were up to 200 there shortly before it was taken.

Aid workers told Reuters

13 foreign staff from Hargeisa were taken on two flights to Djibouti from Kala-baydh airstrip west of Hargeisa which aid agencies had been using for the past month.

"It was a protective measure. The situation was not immediately threatening to our operations," an official said.

Under Mr. Egal, Somaliland refused to accept U.N. troops last year to ensure security and has managed to escape much of the militia conflicts and lawlessness plaguing the rest of Somalia since the fall of Somali dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in 1990.